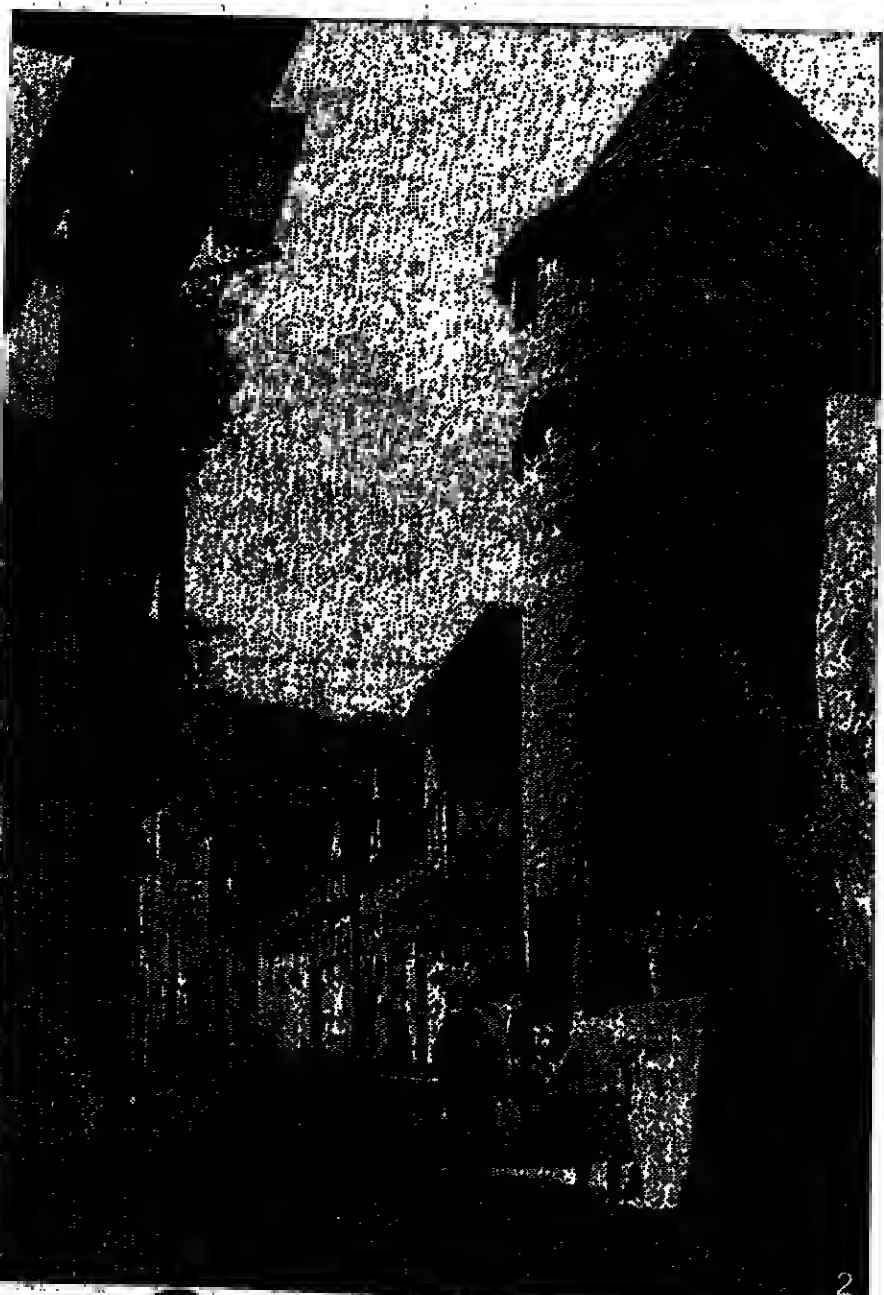


Routes to tour in Germany

The German Wine Route

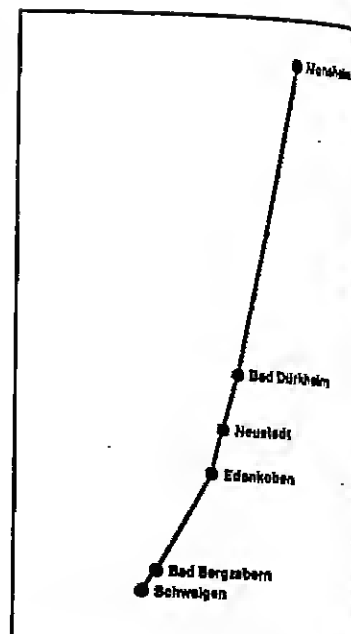


German roads will get you there — to the Palatinate woods, for instance, where 2,000 years ago Roman legionaries were already growing wine. Each vine yields up to three litres of various kinds of wine, such as Riesling, Sylvaner, Müller-Thurgau, Scheurebe or Gewürztraminer. Grapes are gathered in the autumn but the season never ends. Palatinate people are always ready to throw a party, and wine always holds pride of place, generating *Gemütlichkeit* and good cheer. As at the annual Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, or sausage market, the Deldeshelm goat auction and the election of the German Wine Queen in Neustadt. Stay the night in wine-growing villages, taste the wines and become a connoisseur.

Visit Germany and let the Wine Route be your guide.

- 1 Grapes on the vine
- 2 Dörrenbach
- 3 St Martin
- 4 Deldeshelm
- 5 Wachenheim

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The German Tribune

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Stern words of advice from Gromyko and Mitterrand

Twice in a week the Federal Republic of Germany has seen for itself the difficulties that confront Bonn foreign policy.

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko, spent three days in Bonn in a bid to renew the policy of balance and co-operation.

The Federal Republic is the country the Soviet Union still associates with that it suffered at German hands in the Second World War.

Mr Gromyko also outlined the alarming consequences that would ensue for Germans if the Federal Republic were to run counter to Soviet security interests.

In other words, he warned what would happen if Bonn were to carry out a missile modernisation part of the NATO resolution.

He was followed within less than 48 hours by President Mitterrand of France, a country that boasts intellectual and treaty ties with the Federal Republic that are the most cordial.

M. Mitterrand made it no less clear how dangerous for us, for Europe and for France it would be if Bonn were to

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London the twin-track NATO resolution

He agreed with the Kohl government with US President Reagan that the

merit alone safeguarded peace, that worked only when there was a nuclear balance and that the balance was

currently upset in Europe by the number and quality of Soviet missiles.

The French leader gave an assurance that he had no intention of interfering

with the domestic policy debate, which bound to gain in intensity as the general election campaign gains momen-

um.

But he probably has no objection to being quoted on this issue by Helmut Kohl even though he is a Socialist and Herr Kohl a Christian Democrat.

Before Herr Kohl took over from Herr Schmidt in Bonn the French were

carried the German peace movement showing unrealistic signs of neutralism and pacifism.

Now Hans-Jochen Vogel is Shadow Chancellor they are evidently still worried this soft spot might be spreading to the party as a whole.

Under Helmut Schmidt the SPD viewpoint was at least laid down mainly by the Chancellor, whereas now it is a free-for-all with the soft spot in the running.

It must also have come as a shock to the French to hear leading German Social Democrats state in public that basically the British and French nuclear forces were negotiable at the US-Soviet talks in Geneva.

This is not exactly what was said. The arguments put forward by people such as Egon Bahr are more complicated but not lacking in political logic.

Including Soviet security interests they are, in a nutshell, that the Americans may not be strictly able to negotiate on the subject of the British and French nuclear potential, both being sovereign states, but that the potential is there nonetheless.

So it must be included in setting off Soviet missiles against Western missiles available in Europe.

This is an argument that is lacking in instinct, to say the least, and it would have been unlikely to be put forward by, say, Helmut Schmidt.

Herr Schmidt was long one-sidedly Anglo-American in his leanings, but intensive and cordial ties with M. Mitterrand's predecessor, M. Giscard d'Estaing, made him conscious of French sensitivities.

The French think in categories of grandeur and both act and feel in a much more European manner than the Germans when it comes to emancipation from US apron-strings.

Herr Schmidt well knew that he could only hope to take a more self-assured stand toward Washington and

look after specifically German interests in total harmony with Paris, if at all. That was entirely in keeping

with the philosophy of the treaty signed by Adenauer and de Gaulle 20 years ago.

True, the Franco-German treaty may have set seal to a reconciliation

between the two countries that cannot be rated highly enough

given centuries of hostility between them. But it is risky

to use the term friendship in politics; it can lead to

misunderstanding. Maybe the treaty did indeed end long-standing rivalry between France and Germany, as Chancellor Kohl said in Paris. But he

was right to refer to differences of opinion that still remained. Fundamental disparities are undeniably a

keynote of Franco-German relations. The most important one is that France is a sovereign nuclear power, whereas the Federal Republic has so

tenly undertaken neither to manufacture nor to own nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

Continued on page 2



Chancellor Kohl (left) and President Mitterrand of France after his Bundestag speech marking the 20th anniversary of the Franco-German friendship pact. (Photo: AP)

Missile debate in full swing as campaign fever mounts

The missile debate, which wasn't due to go into top gear until after the summer recess, is already in full swing in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It wasn't due to go into top gear until the final stages of the Geneva talks between the Russians and the Americans when results are pending, or not, as the case may be.

The issue at stake is medium-range missiles, with the Soviet Union expect-

ed to disarm and the West considering missile modernisation.

With a general election campaign gaining momentum in Germany, security as a feature of party-political manifestos is bound to add an element of additional excitement.

Disregarding for a moment the day-to-day statements by the parties concerned, which tend to confuse matters more than to shed light on them, the first point to be made is that a zero option can be ruled out.

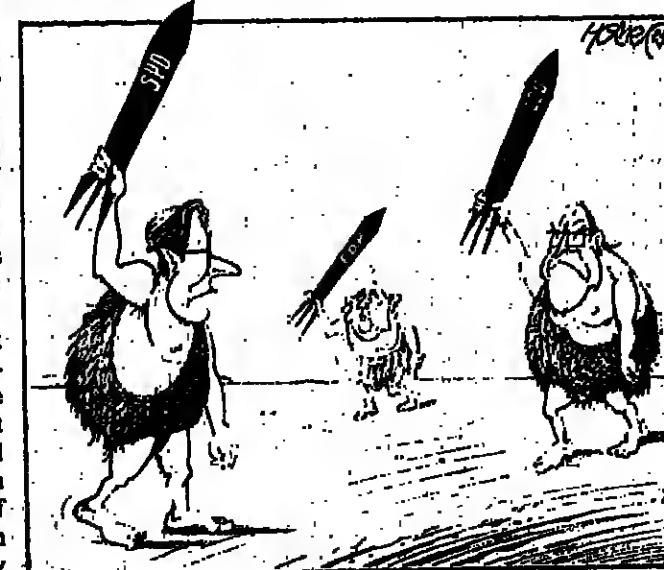
Second, the British and French missiles will not form part of the equation.

Third, it is the hundreds of Soviet SS-20 missiles that led to the NATO resolution in the first place and might make missile modernisation by the West indispensable.

Offering to scrap a few dozen SS-20s will not be enough if several hundred remain.

Fourth, it must be said that the Soviet empire including its Eastern European satellites cannot be held together by the power of an idea but solely by military power.

Military pressure and superiority are indispensable, as so many bids for freedom in the East bloc have shown. So Western Europe cannot afford to be the weaker of the two.



A missile campaign?

(Cartoon: Hanel/Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

Wolf Ullmann
(Kleiner Nachrichten, 24 January 1983)

THE LAW

Hamburg police accused of ties with underworld

Blood and thunder has always been good for the reputation of Hamburg's underworld, but persistent allegations that the police and organised crime are hand in glove are less amusing.

After years of criticism Hamburg's police chief Günter Redding, 59, has resigned. He is felt to have been unsuccessful at cleaning up the force.

Towards the end of last year shoot-outs in the city's underworld reached alarming proportions, going a little too far over for the Reeperbahn and St. Pauli.

At Oblandorf cemetery there were funerals reminiscent of Chicago in Al Capone's heyday, the first being that of Michael Luchting, known as Mike the Beat.

A good-looking man, he may have been, doubtless befitting a St. Pauli pimp, but not when he was found hanging from a tree in the Linsburg Heath.

Micha was imprisoned by the Spanish police for 149 days accused of being a white-slave dealer, during which time his empire of prostitution on the Reeperbahn came apart at the seams.

He had been a leading member of GMBH, a gang of pimps (he was the letter M). At Oblandorf he was given a send-off in style, with a fine sermon, several thousand carnations and a Rolls Royce made of flowers.

A fortnight later it was Klaus Breitenreiter's turn, "SS Klaus" and Jürgen "Angie" Becker were killed in an Erso Center shootout by other pimps.

The shooting was said to have been in connection with a prostitute.

Frank Schüßler, known as Sachsen-Franky, ran a brothel and was one of the mourners at Michael Luchting's funeral. It was his turn next.

He was shot and dangerously injured by a prostitute at his home in Blankenese, a high-class residential suburb on the banks of the Elbe.

Doctors later testified that the prostitute showed signs of having been seriously battered herself.

These goings-on were reminiscent of the early days when the struggle for power in Hamburg's underworld was in full swing. The police would probably be happy if that were still the case.

Nowadays, however, shootouts are rare. Organised crime is said to have taken over and the police are alleged not to have realised what was going on until it was far too late.

There are even allegations of close ties between leading police officers and the underworld, having prevented the force from effectively combating the threat.

Police chief Günter Redding, who is now on leave at his own request, and has applied to be pensioned early, is not accused of contacts with the underworld.

He is said to have let things slide for far too long. He was a fine administrator but is claimed not to have been ruthless enough in cleaning up the force.

That is not how he sees the situation. He once told *Hamburger Abendblatt*, the local evening paper, he would welcome the lion tamer's job.

But he doesn't seem to have tamed anyone, certainly not in the CID squad

responsible for handling burglary cases, which was a law unto itself.

The distinctive methods of this burglary squad developed combined clearlog up crime and dealing in stolen property in a manner that was decidedly illegal.

The basic idea was that the stolen goods were bought back, with next to no questions asked.

A number of police officers are said to have earned good money on the side in this dishonest brokerage. The police and the underworld seem to have dealt with each other on equal terms.

There have been persistent and much more serious allegations that leading Hamburg police officers worked hand in glove with underworld bosses.

The two names repeatedly mentioned are those of retired CID chief Hans Zühlsdorf and Reeperbahn restaurateur Wilfried Schulz.

Schulz won a court order forbidding anyone to call him the Godfather of St. Pauli. He is currently in custody on suspicion of having set up a criminal organisation.

Zühlsdorf, who made a name for himself both in Germany and abroad as a specialist in fighting organised crime, is said to have had too close ties with Schulz.

There were even rumours of blackmail; rumours the police eventually had to look into. It did so by using illegal bugging devices.

Views differ as to what came to light. The police chief and Hamburg's senator for home affairs, at that time Werner Steinhilber, said nothing had come to light that substantiated the allegations.

Last October a Bremen lawyer, Rolf Gossner, 34, and a journalist, Uwe Herzog, 26, had a book published that blew the lid off police methods in Germany.

It is entitled *Der Apparat*, An Investigation into the Police, and was published by Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Cologne.

It is a non-fiction title that has caused an ongoing upset, and a Bremen group act up to monitor police activities has its work cut out.

The blurb on the book's dust jacket explains what the two authors had in mind:

"This is an attempt to find out what goes on behind closed doors in the police force, both day by day and in large-scale campaigns."

"Observations on the spot, reporting, and eye-witness accounts describe and outline the police inroads into everyday life."

"Confidential documents, police statistics and scientific literature are cited to prove and analyse the drastic extent and growth of the police apparatus in the Federal Republic of Germany."

"What the book does is list one accusation after another, some of which may well be justified, but whether it succeeds in proving its case is another matter."

"Former police officers are quoted and said to have plucked up the courage to speak out about what they experienced in the force. But why did they wait until they themselves were in the clear?"

Photos of police officers toting guns and beating up members of the public

Police officers who took part in the investigations disagree. One of them has told his tale to *Der Stern*, the illustrated weekly, which is circulating it.

He is now himself the subject of police probes, accused of using the illegal bugging devices that are agreed to have been used in the case.

It is striking that Zühlsdorf himself was the officer in charge of investigations and a reputed specialist in organised crime said in 1979 there was no such thing as organised crime in Hamburg.

That was the year in which the FBI gave the Hamburg police the tip that there were links between the US underworld and the city's own world of crime.

A year later another special commission, consisting of CID officers and public prosecutors, came to a different conclusion.

Unlike Zühlsdorf, who had until then been backed by Dr Redding, his boss, the commission found that there were signs of organised crime but no indication that the police were in any way incriminated.

But the home affairs committee of the city council was damning in its condemnation of the ineffectual way in which the city's police force was run, and this view was shared by all political parties.

The committee found that the police had for years, despite clear indications from investigative work, failed to take suitable action.

That was the point at which Dr Redding ought normally to have called it a day, but city police chiefs are thick-skinned. They have to be, and there are enough cases to prove the point.

While Dr Redding stayed on the job the Hamburg police still took his course regardless, passing him by to all intents and purposes.

Home Affairs Senator Alfons Pawel



Günter Redding

czyk set about cleaning up the force. The burglary squad was disbanded and its members transferred to other units regardless of whether or not they were suspected of inappropriate behaviour.

New regulations for dealing with underworld contacts were drawn up and the police launched a full-scale campaign against organised crime.

Wilfried Schulz was taken into custody as part of the operation.

Pawelczyk says time and again the police are honest for the most part, though there are black sheep where.

But the last word has not yet been said. There are still far too many rumours and allegations that need to be cleared up, not to mention the deaths of police informers.

The authorities are now considering setting up a commission of inquiry to investigate the city council's criticism.

Stuttgart: *Zeitung*, 20 Jan.

OUR WORLD Teachers rap too much TV for kids

Three- to 13-year-olds spend twice to three times as much time watching television as they did only two years ago, says Uwe Franke of a teachers' association and Dortmund University professor Dieter Höltershinken.

They make this statistically unsubstantiated claim in a review of what they call the "media culture" to which children are increasingly exposed.

Massive exposure to television, they lead to serious developmental problems with children.

Uwe Franke: "Thousands of pre-adolescent children of working parents are glued to the TV due to loneliness, fear and boredom."

Professor Höltershinken blames this directly on the introduction of a daily TV programme and the growing number of second TV sets in children's rooms.

In 1980, ZDF (one of Germany's two major TV networks) said that three- to five-year-olds spent an average of 71 minutes a day watching television.

According to Franke, viewing time has doubled or tripled.

Speaking on behalf of the 16,000 teachers who are members of his organisation, Franke maintains that "the introduction of a morning TV programme has led to more aggressiveness, national atrophy, growing 'speechlessness' and cultural pauperisation."

Professor Höltershinken calls for an appropriate TV education, starting in kindergarten.

Much TV seen by children is done in the broadcasting times especially provided for them, he says. As a result the children watch more adult than children's programmes.

More than 25 per cent of three- to five-year-olds are "TV addicts," he says.

Childhood today means not only "TV hood" but a sweeping "media hood" that is dominated by the industry and produces a "children's culture" that stimulates constant media consumption, writes Professor Höltershinken in an information booklet for

parents and teachers entitled *TV Education in Kindergarten*.

He accuses the media of creating needs in children and exploiting these needs through clever advertising.

Professor Höltershinken applies the generic term "children's culture" to a wide range of products.

There is very little that is culturally sound provided for children in the form of films, children's theatre and visits to museums and similar institutions.

A conglomerate of media supplies the children around the clock. In fact, a uniform children's culture has evolved even in kindergarten in the form of a world of playing and learning toys, consumer goods and furnishings, all designed by experts and allegedly specially geared to children. Most of this stuff can be found in and ordered from a very small number of catalogues.

This "children's culture" ignores such basic childhood needs as exercise, "direct and palpable contact with nature and the environment in general" and lasting social ties.

Television in particular conveys values and behavioural patterns that are inconsistent with the children's experience of everyday reality with its natural conflicts.

As a result, the children regard the demands of their parents as being inconsistent with the standards conveyed to them by television.

Comments Professor Höltershinken: "This means that the children are faced with a 'conflict solution dilemma' at a most vulnerable phase of their development and that they don't know which standard should apply and how they should behave."

Regardless of its response in a given situation, the individual child will always violate either the standards conveyed by television or those of its natural environment. This results in uncertainty and stunted development."

(Sachsen-Zeitung, 6 January 1983)

Claimants' union calls for fair deal, less red tape



Although barely 18 months in existence, the acronym Ius (it stands for *Interessensverband für Unfallgeschädigte und Sozialleistungsempfänger*, an action group for accident victims and social security recipients) has become a hallmark of efficiency and is a lifeline for many.

"We have discovered a niche in the market," says Ius Chairman Matthias Kusche of Ludwigshafen somewhat ironically.

The non-profit organisation's aim is to help its members with the problems they encounter after an accident due to difficulties in pressing insurance claims or the inertia of state bureaucracy.

The flood of applications for help bears witness to the need for such an organisation.

The applicants include some 550 people who have been involved in accidents and are now fighting it out with insurance companies or in court.

Matthias Kusche, 30, is himself crippled for life as the result of an accident, and though the accident happened five years ago he is still waiting for a settlement from the insurance company and the courts are also taking their time. So far there has not even been a lower court ruling in the case.

"Once a cripple always a cripple," muses Kusche, adding: "You can't be more crippled than crippled," in an allusion to the fact that experts are still unable to agree on the extent of his disability.

As he sees it, there is room for many more conscientious objectors in this line of social work in the broadest sense.

Ius charges its clients DM5 an hour for brokerage services, though this barely covers costs and the fee is likely to be increased soon.

But none of this gets down to the actual root of the problem. What Kusche wants is to make the welfare department step in earlier and reduce the costs an accident victim has to bear.

If he gets his way, the expenses of an accident victim will be estimated at the beginning of a year and paid instantly instead of being reimbursed on presentation of receipts.

As things stand, the victim has to advance his expenses and then patiently wait for reimbursement.

Another Ius objective is to increase the compulsory third party insurance cover for motorists to DM75m. His proposals are now being studied by the Bonn Justice Ministry.

Knut Teske
(Die Welt, 10 January 1983)

The fact is that Kusche was wheelchair-bound even before his road accident. But at least he still had one good arm that enabled him to handle a specially designed car. The accident robbed him of that arm, making him totally disabled and dependent on the help of others.

But his experts' opinions conflict with each other, especially as Kusche, a psychologist, was about to be appointed a university lecturer, a dream that was shattered along with his arm.

He is now suing the insurance company for damages amounting to hundreds of thousands of Deutschmarks. The insurers are only prepared to pay a fraction of the claim.

This prompted him to launch his organisation in 1981 and become the champion of accident victims and social security recipients.

Ius started not only a counselling service but also a mobile assistance service intended to familiarise lawyers, social workers, doctors and judges with the problems the disabled have to face.

The response has been overwhelming, especially among conscientious objectors doing nursing work in lieu of military service.

Kusche describes his cooperation with the Conscientious Objectors' Authority, acting as a placement agency, as smooth.

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Knut Teske
(Die Welt, 10 January 1983)

Bremen group monitors police force

are undeniably impressive, but they can hardly be said to be all part of the day's work for the average police officer.

Albert Lohse, Bremen's police chief, was reminded of a sketch by the Munich cabaret star Karl Valentin. He quoted Valentin as saying:

"I am sitting on the toilet reading your review. I still have it in front of me. I shall soon have it behind me."

The paper the book was printed on and the size of the pages, Herr Lohse wrote in the police magazine *Deutsche Polizei*, made him feel much the same.

The book was prompted by the revelations of Rudolf Gossner, who worked for 10 years as an officer at a Bremen police station.

He saw for himself, writes Gossner, how the police dealt with members of the public and how prejudiced many of them were against people on whom suspicion had been thrown.

Gossner is now a student of agricultural sciences. He and other police officers and ex-members of the force are quoted at length.

Reports from Berlin, Bremen, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt are prefaced with quotations from the Civil Service Act.

"Civil servants (and all police officers are civil servants in Germany) are duty bound not to divulge details of their work even after leaving the service."

Gossner says there have been no police officers being hopped about the book and the police have not written it and supplied the information.

But legal action has yet to be taken which the authors feel their work is irrefutable.

Deutsche Polizei, the police magazine, decided to forgo the DM2 it would have netted from a Munich advertisement booklet by Cologne publishers.

The trade union journal *brigitte* accepted with thanks the advertisement be published in its December issue. Then it had second thoughts.

On 19 November Klempner Witsch were sent a second letter: the magazine preferred not to print advertisement as envisaged and led the arrangement.

The authors, Gossner and Lohse, are touring the country lecturing at houses on behalf of their bid to group to monitor police activities.

Everywhere audiences are learning more about the work of the men group. Other groups have been set up in Emden, Tübingen, Burg, Freiburg, Hamburg and Munich.

The Bremen group are backed by the Humanist Union, a group of defence lawyers and the Green environmental group in the city.

They have set themselves the task of providing legal assistance to

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EAST-WEST TIES

Both sides satisfied with visit

Andrei Gromyko left Bonn on 19 January feeling satisfied, as well he might. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German opposite number, agreed that the Soviet Foreign Minister's visit had been necessary and useful.

Neither side might have changed its mind on crucial issues, but both had benefited from the encounter.

For Moscow the Federal Republic of Germany was the first Western country with which the new Kremlin leaders were able to review relations and establish them on a working basis.

In Bonn Chancellor Kohl and his Foreign Minister were able to demonstrate that their CDU-led government is an opposite number the Soviet Union can and does take seriously.

Even though Mr Gromyko may well have been generous in his flattery of his German hosts the encounter was a tougher test of maturity for the new Bonn government than Herr Kohl's goodwill visit to Washington.

Ties between Bonn and Moscow, when viewed on their own, i.e. bilaterally, are only a minor aspect of world affairs but by no means one of no importance.

Both sides have a genuine interest in as satisfactory cooperation as possible, partly because it has a stabilising effect in Europe politically and partly because it is anything but a one-sided bargain economically, especially in the context of long-term cooperation.

What is more, from Bonn's point of view, trouble-free ties with Moscow are the final arbiter of relations with other neighbours to the East, especially the GDR.

This being so, Mr Gromyko's three-day visit prompted something of a renaissance of the 1970 Moscow treaty between the two countries.

Like Mr Andropov in his talks with Bonn's Opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel in Moscow, Mr Gromyko in Bonn was untiring in his praise of the value and development potential of the 1970 agreement.

It was, as he saw it, a timetable for profitable detente, and the Bonn ga-

vernment made no bones about its intention of continuing with Ostpolitik on the basis of the treaty.

Chancellor Kohl may have reservations on whether both sides mean the same by detente, but in the course of Mr Gromyko's visit the Christian Democrats adopted the Moscow treaty, as it were, after 12 years of reluctance.

The signals for cooperation are not on red for stop.

Both sides have also learnt useful lessons from the visit in respect of German-Soviet ties in the context of world affairs.

In the current state of East-West affairs, which is distinctly chilly, Bonn cannot afford to take up an intermediate position, let alone a broker's role.

Moscow appreciated this fact given the definite manner in which both government and Opposition in Bonn came to the defence of the United States.

At the same time Bonn must bear in mind that for the time being it will remain the Kremlin's first port of call in the Soviet bid to get out of the sin bin it has been in on account of Afghanistan and Poland.

This provides Bonn with opportunities of exerting influence on both sides that ought to be used, with due consideration for alliance requirements.

The two sides finally learnt from each other in respect of a matter of life or death for Europe, the installation or scrapping of medium-range nuclear missiles.

Mr Gromyko made a point of creating an impression of decided moderation by and large, which seemed to indicate that Moscow does not at present set any great store by propaganda campaigns against the West's missile modernisation option.

Government and Opposition in Bonn both stand by the December 1979 Nato missile-and-talks resolution, although their respective emphases differ.

But the seriousness with which Moscow put its case ought to have convinced Bonn that Moscow is keen to break through the vicious circle of the arms race.

To this extent, as Konrad Adenauer put it in his later years, the Soviet Union has become a peace-loving power.

Following Mr Gromyko's visit to Bonn both sides must have realised once and for all that a decision can only be reached at the conference table in Geneva, be it over at the last minute.

Thomas Meyer
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 January 1983)

Continued from page 1

The Federal Republic's unparalleled rise to economic power has at no point in time offset this difference. Without the nuclear safeguards provided by its allies Bonn would have been helplessly liable to blackmail of any kind.

The hand of friendship held out by General de Gaulle nonetheless at no time went so far as to allow the Germans a share, let alone a say, in France's nuclear *force de frappe*.

There is no declaration to the effect that Germany enjoys protection beneath the French nuclear shield.

Not for nothing did President Mitterrand leave unanswered in his Bonn interview for German TV the question when and to what effect France's tactical nuclear weapons were to be used that could not be fired beyond the territory of the Federal Republic.

General de Gaulle shared with not a few Germans doubts whether the United States in the event of a Soviet attack on Europe would resort to a nuclear re-

sponse and really risk its own destruction.

M. Mitterrand has spared the Bonn government the embarrassing need to choose between Paris and Washington, a choice that was felt to be impossible even in Adenauer's days.

Maybe Bonn now feels it no longer needs to exert the pressure on the USA the SPD Opposition feels is indispensable if the Geneva talks are to be brought to a successful conclusion.

Maybe America's domestic Opposition will perform this task satisfactorily, but President Reagan and his aides, men who are unenthusiastic about a compromise with the Soviet Union, could also feel encouraged by M. Mitterrand's stand, the determined nature of which will have come as a surprise even in the United States.

Yet one may also feel it is all very well for M. Mitterrand to talk and give advice. He had not just hosted Mr Gromyko.

Hans Schmitz
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 January 1983)

Bonn sizes up situation in Mr Gromyko's wake

On his seventh visit to Bonn Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko left behind a twofold wish:

● In Geneva, where pressure of time was mounting, progress was gradually expected at the US-Soviet disarmament talks.

● In Germany the political parties ought to try and conduct the debate in a more objective manner and steer clear of missiles as a major campaign issue.

As a campaign issue the topic would make it more, not less, difficult to take a thorough look at ways of redressing the military balance in Europe.

In the wake of Mr Gromyko's visit the political parties in Bonn still have points in common.

Everyone realises that at the end of this year Nato must, by the terms of its 1979 resolution, go ahead with missile modernisation if the Soviet Union fails by then to meet the West half-way in reducing its superiority.

Everyone also knows that there is little likelihood of agreement being reached in Geneva on what in Bonn is still officially termed the specific ideal solution.

This solution is the zero option by which both sides would agree to disband with medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

It may also be noted, without pointing an accusing finger at Moscow in any way, that Mr Gromyko had nothing new to say in Bonn.

At present the Soviet Union insists on the proposal it submitted in Geneva last November, a proposal to 'reduce in number its SS-20 missile systems.'

This amounts to an admission that the SS-20 and the threat it has come to symbolise has indeed given Moscow the edge over the West, which it long disputed.

It is now up to the Americans to reply to the Soviet move in Geneva. At the time of writing Vice-President George Bush was expected in Bonn for consultations on this issue.

The Bonn government would hear nothing of Mr Gromyko's allegation that the United States was solely to blame for negotiations having ground to a halt in Geneva.

But despite the general election campaign the political parties in Bonn cannot afford to ignore the fact that they have had and continue to have a substantial say in the US negotiating position in Geneva.

The SS-20 missile was first raised as an issue five years ago by Chancellor Schmidt, who referred to it as a dangerous intermediate, or grey, zone between tactical and strategic nuclear weapons.

In an uncontrolled sector below the strategic level the Soviet Union had set about building missiles designed for use over intermediate distances of up to 5,000km, or 3,000 miles.

In 1979 Nato at Bonn's wish resolved to station new US missiles in Europe from the end of 1983 unless agreement was negotiated on a reduction in the number of Soviet missiles deployed that were capable of reaching targets in Western Europe.

In terms of security policy this was a clear viewpoint, but it ran up against a sentiment that first gained a foothold in Helmut Schmidt's own party, the Social Democrats.

German Social Democrats, and not

the United States, then hit on the idea that a zero option must be negotiated in Geneva.

The tendency toward support among SPD politicians and campaign. Now they reject what they called only a short while ago.

Yet while Washington, at Bonn, called on the Soviet Union to come to terms on the zero option, the current feeling in Bonn is that the zero option is no longer viable.

In the course of Mr Gromyko's visit the CDU leader, Franz Josef Strauss, made it clear to Moscow that he felt from the start that the zero option was the brainchild of a weak idea.

Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher have hinted far more than they continue to hope for a total renunciation of medium-range missiles at some later date at the agreement might first be possible.

As soon as Mr Gromyko had left his plane back to Moscow he drew up fresh tables of minimum possibilities for a solution to the missile problem to be deployed by both sides.

The new figures include all numbers, but not zero.

Alongside complicated equations next to no-one can check, simplifications are also made.

The SPD has accused the CDU of wanting to be given a date to deploy new missiles at the end of March.

Chancellor Kohl gave rise to the accusation by virtue of a speech he made in New York. He should put it right without delay.

There can be no vote on terms have yet to be negotiated.

Conversely, the CDU accuses SPD of wanting a mandate for a campaign against US missiles. The one-sidedness is as polemical as the other.

Neither is suitable as an option for a party that lays claim to a high level of governing the country.

In reality none of the Bonn government's proposals is to be stationed on the side. Given mutual acknowledgment of this laudable intention may naturally differ on ways and means.

Subject to this proviso arguments may then be waged on the subject, or without a general election to make a campaign issue.

Rudolf Starke
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 January 1983)

The German Tribune

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GENERAL ELECTION

Christian Democrats falter after promising start

After years of calling for a new legislative system the CDU and CSU are swayed in the stiff breeze of the election campaign. Now they reject what they called only a short while ago.

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too long ago stated that the social security pension fund would find itself unable to pay the pensions from its own resources as of next year.

A sweeping reform of the pensions system makes it mandatory for the citizen to do without some of the benefits he has been accustomed to.

But none of this has entered the platform, and the conservatives now have to pay for having assumed government without several options to fall back on.

Their quiver is empty, and their original will to replenish it for the campaign in a bid to get the voters' mandate for a clear-cut policy is flagging.

Their hope that the very fact of their being in government would bring about a change for the better did not stand up to economic realities.

Though the overall conditions for an economic upturn have greatly improved (interest rates are down, the current account is balanced and tax relief has been enacted) there are still no signs of a turn for the better — except in the eyes of the CDU/CSU campaigners.

It is hard to convince the public by pointing to specific facts that the sacrifices imposed on it were not only just but that the first fruits are already in evidence.

Seen in this light, it is not surprising that the government is despondent.

In Ancient Greece, the bearer of bad news had to fear for his life. All that is at stake today is an election victory.

Paradoxically, the closer the election date the less do the political parties trust in the common sense of the voter. Yet they bank on being elected despite their wishy-washy platforms.

Wolfgang Mauersberg
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 January 1983)

CDU says what it stands for

The CDU campaign platform has been structured to tally with the party's decision to put the emphasis on economic issues.

Security policy, *Deutschlandpolitik*, European policy and development aid have been relegated to second place.

As to development policy, the CDU stresses that the aid criterion is not only the neediness of the recipient country but also the policy pursued by that country.

Development aid's function is seen as providing help towards self-help. In receiving such assistance the country concerned must recognise the legitimate economic and political interests of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The CDU says it is not prepared to support regimes that use their meagre monetary resources to buy arms, in some cases from the Warsaw Pact nations, while expecting West Germany to provide food and consumer goods.

"Western security interests are not the only criterion for our development aid policy. But nobody can ask us to act against our vital interests or to promote the interests of other countries."

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Greens in conference at Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Many Green supporters may vote SPD instead

The Greens sense that there is danger ahead. The general election on 6 March could suddenly check their seemingly inexorable rise.

Banished to the Opposition benches and relieved of government responsibility, the SPD under Hans-Jochen Vogel is exerting a considerable attraction on potential Green voters, if the latest polls are any guide.

In any event, it is now by no means certain that the Greens will actually move into the next Bundestag. They themselves now no longer rule out the possibility of a future two-party government.

But even should they triumph on 6 March, euphoria is unlikely to last.

The debates at their party congress in Sindelfingen have once more confirmed that the Greens need more time, time to clarify their attitude towards power and social realities.

Granted, they have clearly matured despite their economic platform and the course they have charted to utopia.

Despite their grass roots democracy, the influence of those who have already done parliamentary work in the states and have learned to curb ideological flights of fancy is growing.

Even so, there was something eerie about the manner in which the Sindelfingen meeting discussed issues with total disregard for the problems that plague the public.

Their financial demands on the state are of a magnitude that proves their ignorance of the fiscal problems Bonn has to cope with.

It is in the nature of things that all parties should come up with lovely campaign platforms, pointing to a distant future.

The established parties offer, with varying degrees of success, short-term solutions that can be financed and stand a chance of finding a parliamentary majority.

Here, the Greens still have a great deal to learn. The fact is that where they do take a hand in legislative work they depend on the bills tabled by the established parties.

This is the only explanation for the fact that in Hesse there now seems to be an SPD/Green accord in the offing on the financing of an employment programme.

Internally, representatives of the Hesse Greens have even gone so far as

to intimate that that state's SPD is not only pursuing a sound policy but that the Greens have actually no alternative of their own to offer.

As elsewhere, the Greens' success in Hesse found them totally unprepared. Now that they already bear legislative responsibility they have to start learning how to legislate.

They can only do if they formulate their long-term programmes in a way that will give them enough scope for compromise in day-to-day parliamentary work.

The prospect of being enabled by the 6 March election to topple an incumbent CDU Chancellor seems to have forced the Greens to pursue a wide-open course.

While there can be no doubt that the obstacles they will put up for an SPD minority government would be considerable, the question is: will they maintain these obstacles when it comes to the crunch?

Some Green ideologues hope that the voters will give the conservatives an absolute majority and clearly put the new party on the Opposition benches.

This would relieve the Greens of the dilemma of a severe clash between the pragmatists and the fundamentalists in their party.

But even these Green strategists do not know how to stand their ground next to an opposition SPD that, following an election defeat, could step up its integration drive.

It is quite possible that the Greens are already contemplating the end of their parliamentary career should the SPD find itself in Opposition.

But even then they would be able to look back on considerable successes as a result of the challenge they represented for the traditional power structure over a number of years.

The political climate in this country has changed in the past few years, and there is now no party that does not attribute considerable importance to environmental protection.

There is also no party that has not become more sensitive and flexible on such issues as arms and peace.

By bringing about this change the Greens have altered the political landscape, a success that cannot be counted in votes.

Joachim Worthmann
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 17 January 1983)

Security forces said to be too keen on video and computer snooping

The Hamburg news magazine *Der Spiegel* says police and security forces are increasingly using video cameras and keeping countless random facts and faces on computer file.

Data protection authorities are worried about the spread and possible official abuse of this form of computer snooping.

But there seems to be little likelihood of such Orwellian techniques being abandoned. There are cases in which they might fairly be said to serve a useful purpose.

Two years ago, just before the unsuccessful Red Army Faction terrorist attack on US General Frederick J. Kroesen, members of the Federal Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BKA), Wiesbaden, along with men of the Federal Intelligence Agency (BND) installed sophisticated video cameras in strategic spots around the general's Heidelberg home.

The cameras were hidden in street lamps, bird feeders and the casing of a roadside device installed to photograph traffic offenders.

The cameras and their recorders enabled the BKA men to monitor all comings and goings around the general's home.

They were technically so up to date as to have provided clear enough pictures to identify passers-by even at a great distance. They also made it possible to clearly read the licence plates of passing cars.

The snooping action, recently disclosed by the Hamburg news magazine *Der Spiegel*, has been confirmed by the BKA.

A BKA spokesman told *Stuttgarter Zeitung* that the pictures taken by the cameras were compared with photographs of suspected terrorists on file at the BKA.

He said that the persons concerned were further investigated only if the video shots showed a certain similarity with suspected terrorists.

The investigation was then continued until the person concerned was fully cleared of suspicion.

According to *Der Spiegel*, more than 200 people who happened to have been near General Kroesen's home at the time were screened by the police.

The BKA confirmed that the car licences recorded by the cameras were checked against the register of stolen cars.

The Criminal Investigation Bureau said that although the BND's function is restricted to gathering information abroad, help received from the agency was legally above board and covered by the Mutual Assistance Act for law enforcement agencies.

The watch, said to have cost about DM1m, did not prevent the attack on General Kroesen because it was staged outside the area under surveillance.

Similar operations were at that time in progress in Patrick Henry Village, a residential area for members of the US armed forces where several endangered generals live, and around the Mann-

heim residence of British Major-General Michael F. Reynolds.

The BKA spokesmen said that none of these actions could be described as a sweeping and continuous video surveillance. He said that this was neither technically feasible nor legally permissible.

He stressed that such actions are permissible only in cases where a person's life was in imminent danger. Given such a risk, the spokesman said, the BKA would not hesitate to mount a similar action today.

But this imminent danger, which actually applied in these cases, can hardly be said to have existed in the case of two other surveillances drives with hidden video cameras, both of which have been confirmed by the BKA.

In 1981, this agency installed cameras in the busy concourse underneath Frankfurt's main railway station. The cameras were aimed at a news stand to photograph buyers of newspapers.

As in the previous cases, the shots were later compared with photographs of suspects on file with the BKA.

The idea in this case was to film people behaving conspicuously and anything out of the ordinary. This was

based on the assumption that terrorists who have just mounted an attack would be trying to get as many national newspapers as possible to get on the air of press reaction.

In other words, anybody buying several newspapers was instantly suspect.

The other instance concerns video cameras mounted at Frankfurt's main post office to monitor passers-by who dropped letters into the box. In this case, the sleuths wanted to catch terrorists posting letters to claim credit for their raids.

The BKA spokesman conceded that his agency did not know which terror organisation would mount what attack against which installation. He said that this was a precautionary measure.

The 1981 monitoring actions spanned a period of about six months, though not simultaneously.

The spokesman said that there had also been other monitoring drives not disclosed by *Der Spiegel*.

Hans Peter Bull, the federal commissioner for protection against data abuse, has announced that he will be putting some questions to the BKA following the *Spiegel* disclosures.

Ombudswoman accuses state of breaches of privacy

Ruth Leuze, Baden-Württemberg's commissioner for protection from data abuse, has levelled severe invasion of privacy charges against the state government and its legislature.

The government of Prime Minister Lothar Späth and the CDU majority in the state assembly, Frau Leuze says, in her latest report, have watered down the provisions against data abuse more than the Federal and any other state governments.

A second amendment to the Act Governing Protection Against Data Abuse now, before the Baden-Württemberg state assembly aims to exempt science and research from the provisions of the Act.

This would strip the citizen of basic privacy rights and would release the medical and legal professions from their secrecy obligation.

She calls on the state government to review its plans and desist from giving science and research access to privileged information.

The commissioner also calls on the government to rescind last year's decision to curtail control possibilities for data stored by the police, thus once more providing safeguards against data abuse that are worthy of this name.

As things stand now, protection against invasion of privacy is in great jeopardy in Baden-Württemberg, the report says.

Though other states also have their problems on this score, Baden-Württemberg takes some beating.

The commissioner accuses state politicians of putting administrative interests before the citizen's right to privacy,

and of retroactively legalising the passing on of privileged data to research institutions.

Commissioner Leuze, appointed three years ago by Prime Minister Späth, is particularly worried about the watering down of the secrecy code in the medical and legal professions.

The first amendment of the Act in June 1982 has greatly facilitated the exchange of data between government authorities and the police, to the detriment of the citizen's privacy rights.

The commissioner says in her report that she has been barred from access to much of the data stored by the police because this information has been labelled for internal use only.

This made it impossible for her to establish whether the police were responsible for the fact that an illustrated magazine was able to publish the names and photographs of drug addicts.

She was also unable to say whether a young man who was dismissed from his job on the grounds that he was a suspected Communist also owes this to the illegal passing on of police information.

She says this type of curtailment of control possibilities, which is non-existent in other states, could hardly be in the best interests of the police.

The commissioner also criticises the State Office for the Protection of the Constitution for its unique practice of keeping a record of citizens making use of their right of access to their own data if they do so more than twice.

The state Interior Ministry argues that this is necessary to prevent people gathering information on the Office's methods of data collection.

He wants to establish to what the information gained from such monitoring is stored in the BKA banks.

Bull was aware even before the *Spiegel* disclosures that such monitoring drives existed. The real problem he is concerned with is the fact that the data banks contain information on people who are not under suspicion that this information is stored for a year without informing the concerned.

In fact, data frequently remain in the files longer than a year and the tendency to use methods developed to fight terrorism in connection with crimes as well.

'Frightening prospect'

The commissioner terms the prospect of a sweeping video monitoring campaign frightening. This relates to other *Spiegel* disclosures that cameras recorded a major demonstration in a German city to monitor the behaviour of individual demonstrators.

The news magazine's source of information is a former BKA employee who was in charge of developing screening technologies and who had thoughts when he realised the extent to which such systems could be used.

Stefan (Stuttgarter Zeitung, 13 Jan.)

The commissioner, on the other hand, maintains that this practice of necessity deter citizens from the disclosure of their data.

She also criticises banks for long-established practice of offering financial incentives to schools to hand over the addresses of their pupils as potential customers.

She charges some banks with students to pass on the addresses of their classmates.

Though conceding that it is a goal for banks to make donations to schools contingent on their meeting certain conditions, she nevertheless insists that this manner of buying and selling puts inadmissible pressure on parents and students.

The report also points to the danger inherent in electronic data processing of the problems of videotexts and the relating to statistics kept by registration offices and the questions asked in questionnaires for civil service applicants.

The commissioner emphasises the contention that she is hostile towards science (than her predecessor).

She attributes many of the problems that both the administration and the citizen have to cope with to the administration's own protective measures against data abuse, measures she deems are handled wrongly.

These problems, the report says, could be solved if the administration were better informed about the application of the provisions of data abuse.

The enactment of a new archival law, the lack of which has been hampering research, could also help to solve problems.

Says Commissioner Leuze: "The dead are now frequently protected than those of the living."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 Jan.)

PROFILE

Herbert Wehner, the SPD's grand old man, steps down

German Social Democrat Herbert Wehner, 76, is to call it a day. He will not be seeking re-election to the Bonn Bundestag in March. His retirement marks the end of an era, both in post-war Social Democracy and in Parliament.

Herbert Wehner, Willy Brandt once said, was not the sort of man you could get out of office. Herr Brandt had very good reason to know that the SPD's grand old man was not squeamish in wielding power.

Herr Wehner in his exercise of power was no respecter of political monuments. While he respected historic buildings, without bending his knee to them he used every opportunity of putting them to use for his own purpose.

Once it had served its purpose from a point of view he determinedly cast it aside.

It was he who persuaded the reluctant Berlin mayor, Willy Brandt, to join the 1966-69 Grand Coalition of Christian and Social Democrats in Bonn as Foreign Minister.

It was he, Herbert Wehner, who unexpectedly set about ousting Herr Brandt as Chancellor in 1974 and in having replaced by Helmut Schmidt.

Brandt is said since this period to have sworn he would survive both Wehner and Schmidt politically. Now Wehner has stepped down and will not be standing for re-election to the Bundestag in March. Brandt has achieved his ambition (always assuming it was not ascribed to him).

Herbert Wehner has been a member of the Bundestag since it came into being in 1949. He has been a leading figure in post-war German politics, and about him the country would not have been the same.

Throughout his parliamentary life he was a caustic figure and tended to express his opinion either for or against the government.

It was he who in a major 1960 speech to the Bundestag proclaimed the need for a new Social Democratic state set up by Konrad Adenauer.

He was he of all people, an ex-Communist whose past was called to mind whenever it suited his political opposition to do so.

Wehner himself once framed his biography as follows:

"I have made two mistakes in my life, political mistakes, that is, and disliking the many others."

The first was in becoming a Communist and the second, once I was no longer able or willing to remain a Communist, in assuming you could still be a political part in the community. You can't. You have to make friends for the rest of your life."

Yet he even went on to become a Cabinet Minister. He held the all-German portfolio in the Grand Coalition government led by Chancellor Kiesinger.

The pennant of office will have intended him least. He could have exerted influence elsewhere. The wellspring motivated him will have been his desire to sue for peace with the new German state by swearing the Minister's oath of allegiance to the constitution.

He engineered this coalition with the Christian Democrats for tactical reasons.

sons. His aim was to show the public that the Social Democrats were capable of governing the country.

His tactics were vindicated three years later when the Social Democrats under Willy Brandt were able to form a coalition of their own with Walter Scheel's Free Democrats as junior partners.

Herbert Wehner was not in favour of this change at the time. He felt the Social Democrats needed more time to gain maturity in joint harness with the Christian Democrats.

At a more personal level he may arguably not have trusted the peace he had made with the state and the state with him.

But Willy Brandt took the opportunity and Herbert Wehner submitted. The years that followed, 1969 to 1972, were to be his best as SPD leader in the Bundestag.

It was a period when he was instrumental in ensuring that a government with a weaker-than-majority posed major items of *Ostpolitik* legislation.

Chancellor Brandt was returned to power with a triumphal majority in 1972, but it was not long before he began to lose control.

Herbert Wehner's hour came; he was largely responsible for ensuring that Helmut Schmidt took over as Chancellor. It was one of Wehner's last major policy decisions.

But he remained a linchpin of the Social and Free Democratic coalition. Due in part to longstanding close personal ties with the FDP's Wolfgang Mischnick he managed to ensure that the SPD and the FDP steered clear of many a clash until 1980.

From the mid-1970s he was increasingly troubled by age, sickness and increasing impatience. There were growing complaints from the SPD parliamentary party about Herr Wehner's "reign of terror."

His authoritarian leadership, aimed at nipping all opposition in the bud, upset many a talented youngster who had initially felt nothing but admiration for the SPD floor leader.

Then there were an increasing number of instances of mismanagement, especially as he was very much on his

own after the departure from the Bundestag under a cloud of his long-standing personal aide Kori Wienand. Since the end of the 1970s Herbert Wehner's days as the power behind the throne in the SPD have been felt to be numbered. Whenever elections to the parliamentary party leadership were due to be held he was rumoured not to be standing for re-election, although he persistently disproved them.

Asked what plans he had for his future, he growled that he would stay in harness for as long as the party wanted him. The party took this to mean that he expected it to re-elect him for as long as he wanted.

That was doubtless the ironic deeper meaning behind Willy Brandt's comment that Wehner was not the sort of man you voted out of office. No-one did.

He has now chosen to step down of his own free will, and late in life too at 76. His official reason for not seeking re-election to the Bundestag is ill-health, and there can be no doubt it is true.

Anyone who has seen him lately will have realised what energy his public appearances cost him.

He is renowned for sitting out every parliamentary debate from beginning to end; it is typical of the merciless discipline he insists on both from himself and from others.

He can claim to have accomplished what he set out to do, to have taken his party into power after long years in opposition. He kept it in power for over 13 years.

His era came to an end when the Social Democrats were ousted last autumn. Even if the SPD were returned to power in March Wehner would not be the right man to maintain party-political

Continued from page 3

nations that are hostile to us," the CDU says.

The platform also deals with *Deutschlandpolitik* at length, reasserting a policy aimed at continuity, freedom and unity.

The German problem must not be kept open theoretically only. Instead, it calls for active action on behalf of justice and unity.

The aim is to perpetuate German nationhood, to have a common German citizenship and to remove the border dividing the nation, but to do so by peaceful means.

The situation will not be normal until self-determination and general rights and freedoms apply to all Germans.

As a result, the CDU will continue to work towards peace in Europe, a peace in which the German people can regain their unity in freedom.

"Our fatherland remains the whole of Germany, and this makes the restoration of unity the foremost aim of our policy."

The CDU also avows that it will meet all commitments resulting from the intra-German treaties, expecting the GDR to do the same.

As to the European Community, the objective is still a political union, while the CDU asserts its loyalty to Nato, saying it will uphold the two-track decision.

Nato is described as a community of values, defending freedom, solidarity, justice and human rights, values that the Soviet Union violates wherever it has the power to do so.

This results in the obligation and the



Schmidt and Wehner: a note of farewell

(Photo: Sven Simon)

cel support for a Chancellor Vogel. He would particularly ill-served for this role if Hans-Jochen Vogel had to rely on the Greens, or environmentalists, in the Bundestag.

In deciding to call it a day he followed in Helmut Schmidt's footsteps, Herr Schmidt likewise having sensed that his days were over.

Both may be assumed not to have forfeited their desire for power; they will merely have bowed to social change and to changes in power politics.

The issues of the 1980s must be faced by a new generation of Social Democrats although Willy Brandt, the last of a trio of SPD leaders, is still in office to organise the transition.

Wehner's departure will be a sad loss to the Bundestag. He is one of a declining band of personalities whose lives and experience establish traditions every parliament needs.

Bundestag debates may now be less vitriolic. Smooth talk may now replace his forthright and cutting, but often very telling style.

But his passion and his temperament, which delighted many and floored others, were indispensable in debates that were later said to have been highlights of parliamentarianism.

Joachim Worthmann

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 13 January 1983)

CDU says what it stands for

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moral right to defend peace and basic liberties against this threat.

The CDU has adopted a policy of "friendship and partnership with the allies and correct and peaceful cooperation with the neighbours in the East."

But peaceful neighbourliness as called for by the CDU can never mean acceptance of the injustice that lies in the denial of the right to national self-determination and individual freedom.

The platform asserts disarmament as the CDU's aim, describing the two-track Nato decision as a timetable for disarmament.

An election victory by the CDU would have a major impact on the success of the Geneva disarmament talks because only a stable government under CDU leadership would thwart the Soviet Union's intention to have its arms supremacy recognised as a fait accompli.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 January 1983)

Since human attitudes and responses are, fortunately, unpredictable, economic forecasting will always be a guessing game; and as the forecasts of the past few years have been wrong by and large, the latest crop for the new year has been particularly cautious.

A detached look at 1983 that takes into account the general mood of uncertainty suggests that the recession will continue and unemployment worsen.

GNP, adjusted for inflation, is likely to decline even more than last year when it was down 1.2 per cent. This year's drop is likely to be 1.5 per cent, largely due to a 2.8 per cent drop in industrial output.

With GNP having already dropped slightly in 1981 (0.2 per cent), Germany is thus entering its third recession year in a row. This has increased the danger that the downturn could develop into an out-and-out crisis.

Like a year ago, when the SPD-FDP coalition anticipated that the second half of the year would show improvement, a pretty unwarranted hope, today's officialdom in Bonn again forecasts an improvement in the second half of 1983.

At that time, the hopes were pinned primarily on exports. But the present centre-right government does not even have that hope to fall back on; exports have been falling markedly since last spring.

The recession that has befallen the most important of industrial customer countries and the insolvency of some East Bloc and developing nations have forced them to cut back on their capital goods orders.

This has hit the most important sector of Germany's export industry whose foreign sales declined by 27 per cent in November.

Growth in domestic business (28 per cent) was not enough to make up for this, especially since it was largely accounted for by one mammoth order. All in all, orders have dropped six per cent.

Though business in the construction industry has picked up a bit due to lower interest rates and other impulses promoting housing construction and there is a likelihood of further improvement in this important sector, there is little inclination to invest.

Investments generally are being retarded by the 6 March national election; but the most important factors here are unsatisfactory sales, high costs, and insolvencies; 15,500 firms went out of business in 1982, 4,000 more than in the previous year.

To make matters worse, the business community is sitting on ample stocks and manufacturing industry is working at only 75 per cent of capacity.

Investment subsidies are not enough to offset these negative factors, and companies like BMW, which is building new production facilities in Berlin and in Regensburg, are the exception rather than the rule.

BMW and Daimler-Benz have shown that success lies in the product, even in a conventional market.

But the imaginativeness of auto makers has been foisted on them from outside through the price policies of the Opec nations.

Yet German auto makers have responded to the changed conditions while their American opposite numbers have not.

The lesson to be drawn from this is that there is a niche even in saturated markets; but only for those who act.

Idle production capacities will not prompt anybody to put money into expansion, and only expansion creates

ECONOMY

Inflation down, but so is so much else

jobs. Investments that are made go into rationalisation, which is a job-killer. This plus the likelihood of a continued recession is anything but promising for the job market.

Every percentage point by which GNP drops does away with more than 100,000 jobs. As a result, we can expect 2.5 million jobless this year, meaning an unemployment rate of 12 per cent (against 9.1 per cent last December).

The rise in unemployment will primarily be due to demographic reasons because more young people are joining the work force and more and more foreigners and women are seeking employment.

The number of available jobs has not increased since 1978 when it was 22.3 million.

Demand is unlikely to provide any new impulses. In fact, consumption is likely to go down by 1.75 per cent (adjusted for inflation).

But this will be due to inadequacies on the supply side rather than lack of buying power.

The thinning-out process among Germany's 400,000 retailers is likely to continue at a steeper rate.

Even the four major department store chains have been hit by declining sales, although Christmas business was about the same as the year before.

The winter sales were unlikely to provide much of a boost because prices were slashed immediately after Christmas.

Even the optimists among the forecasters now expect private consumption to go down by one per cent this year, largely due to moderate wage deals likely to result in pay increases of only three to four per cent and the added strain of the VAT increase as of 1 July 1983.

Looking back on the Federal Monopolies Commission's 25 years its president, Professor Wolfgang Kartte, says corporate executives have had second thoughts on mammoth mergers.

Even in today's economic crisis there appears to be little interest in cartels as a way out, he said.

The economic woes of the day are no longer due to cartel formations and their defensive measures against competition; and even the steel industry still has to compete fiercely.

"There is no longer such a thing as a market without competition because markets have expanded to the point where they are global."

"The threat that now looms is protectionism and nationalism; dangers the commission could not anticipate at its inception," said Professor Kartte.

He stressed that neither cartels nor mergers nor indeed subsidies can safeguard jobs in the long run. Whether or not the danger of national subsidies for all industries will grow will depend on the duration of the present recession.

Any kind of investment steering, he said, is harmful and a danger to free competition. This also applies to state-subsidised research and even more so to interference in free market forces through import quotas.

He stressed the commission's concern over developments prompted by Brussels and its Eurocrats.

Reliance on the part of consumers (to some extent due to the 3.5 per cent drop in overall social benefits and the still high savings quota of 14 per cent) will keep a rein on prices.

Price rises will also be dampened by reduced money circulation, cheaper imports due to an appreciating deutschemark and falling commodity prices, especially for oil.

All this will reduce Germany's inflation rate to a reasonable 3.5 to four per cent in 1983.

This low inflation rate will provide the export business with some relief for the setbacks it has suffered as a result of the declining dollar exchange rate.

Inflation rates abroad are considerably steeper than here and this also applies to the other members of the European Monetary System (EMS) with its fairly rigid exchange rates.

All this is bound to lead to a further devaluation of the French franc and the Italian lira. France's President Mitterrand is likely to press for a revaluation of the deutschemark at the next realignment of EMS currencies.

The declining inflation rate coupled with a hardening deutschemark provides the Bundesbank with additional scope for interest rate reductions.

The 7.5 per cent Federal bonds issued at the beginning of the year are bound to be replaced soon by a seven per cent issue.

Fixed deposit money now barely earns five per cent and conditions for investors continue to deteriorate. By the same token, borrowers can now get money more cheaply.

Yet there has been no upsurge of borrowing, disproving the contention that high interest rates retarded growth.

Moderate inflation rates and slow

Jubilee at the Monopolies Commission

He censured France's administrative obstacles as in the case of video recorder and similar imports from Asia that have to go through customs in a small town in the centre of France.

One of the most important cases dealt with by his authority so far is the application of Metro to acquire a 25 per cent stake in the German department store chain Kaufhof.

The final application has not yet been filed, so the commission still has a fair bit of time before the deadline for a decision, he said.

Professor Kartte welcomed the fact that Metro put its cards on the table rather than hiding the fact that its Kaufhof participation was through a holding company with all the tax advantages this entails.

That is not enough for Metro, which wants to take an active part in the German chain's management.

He said that his authority had to consider the ultimate aims of Metro and that that could mean a bid for a 49.9 per cent stake in Kaufhof.

money circulation are making for the Bundesbank to increase money supply. Though on the money supply has never been ahead of the development of the

The target set to cover the last quarter of 1983 provides for a seven per cent growth in money supply.

But even this is based on the optimistic assumption of a 1.5 per cent increase of production, means that industrial output is not founder on the skin of the money supply.

Similar conditions apply to other industrial countries that are realising that inflation does not necessarily produce growth.

The French government was forced to review its expansionist policy, which had stimulated consumption more than investments.

Despite its supply-side policy, Britain has failed to bring growth. It has, however, managed to bring inflation down to six per cent having lived with 12.5 per cent in 1979.

Growth rates during this ten period were still only about one per cent.

In the USA, where inflation has been brought under control, huge budgetary deficits, the forces on GNP have once more the upper hand after a slight dip the summer of 1982.

Even Japan is now showing weakness because there is no added experts.

The worldwide slump entails a gloom of everything sweeping the mess of difficulties to the others.

Protectionism, which had been derided by the GATT agreement, has rearing its ugly head, even the European Community.

It is reminiscent of the 1930s, should have served as a grim warning.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 Jan 1983)

INDUSTRY

Coming out: end of a monopoly

The German match monopoly, dating back to the Depression of the 1920s and 1930s, expired on 15 January. The monopoly was set up when the Reich, in dire financial straits, paid \$125m from the Swedish match Co. controlled by industrialist Ivar Kreuger.

Of Kreuger's conditions was that the German match market be protected by cheap imports by a match monopoly corporation to set production quotas for the individual German match manufacturers. It then bought and marketed their total output.

From close to 53 years, the entire match business in Germany was thus monopoly controlled.

The monopoly corporation told the manufacturers how the matchboxes had to look and there were only two types of matches available on the market. They went under the labels *Haushalts- und Wälderholz*.

This kind of monopoly was unprecedented in German history. The five still existing match factories in this country, the monopoly corporation's stockholders, though the corporation was not a corporation in the strict sense of the law.

The corporation was supervised by the Federal commissioners, and Bonn pocketed 75 per cent of the profits. Yet

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(Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung, 17 Jan 1983)



New-look matchbox: manufacturers hope they will add sparks to a decontrolled market. (Photo: dpa)

the corporation was neither a government authority nor a federally owned business.

And of course it was not a corporate entity but a "corporation in its own right" under an Act specially passed to meet the terms of the loan agreement.

Apart from Bonn (which in 1981 collected DM3m in profits) the beneficiaries included Ivar Kreuger's heirs, who were entitled to 25 per cent on the profits of top of interest payments.

The post-war match business reached its peak in the early 1970s when the monopoly corporation sold 215,000 crates of matches (each containing 10,000 boxes): a total of 100 billion matches.

Current match sales in this country stand at 33bn. Germany is in fact the

nation with the lowest match consumption per capita (45 a month).

Manufacturers attribute the drop in demand to the fact that the monopoly did not, as originally intended, only stop cheap imports but also prevented a long overdue updating of hema.

Competition was forbidden and hence there was also no marketing in the conventional sense.

The end of the monopoly is bound to bring about a change. The variety of matches on sale in Germany will broaden and naturally there will be competition once more.

In any event, DZG Konsumgüter GmbH (a subsidiary of the Swedish Match group), which controls 80 per cent of the market, is quite optimistic.

It banks on attractive and colourful boxes to replace the dreary old *Weltholz* boxes.

The new matches will come in various lengths and qualities. There will be 5cm matches for the pipe smoker, 10cm versions for barbecuers and a 20cm model for people with open fireplaces.

DZG bank on the fact that there are some five million coal stoves in Germany, three million fireplaces and ten million people who enjoy their occasional barbecue.

The manufacturers now intend to offer a match for every occasion. They hope that this will enable them to boost sales from the present DM60m to DM120m a year.

But it remains to be seen whether these hopes will materialise for both the manufacturers and their 450 employees.

Having been shielded by the monopoly for as long, they have grown unaccustomed to competition.

There are already six countries standing poised to attack the German market: the GDR, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Spain and Turkey.

There is now nothing whatsoever to stop supermarket chains, department stores and even individual tobacconists from importing matches at will.

By the same token, German manufacturers hope to export some of their output, banking on their sophisticated production facilities.

The DZG, for instance, takes only four hours to turn a Canadian poplar into 80,000 boxes, complete with contents.

Competitors abroad have the advantage of cheap labour or state subsidised prices, as in the East Bloc. So the going is likely to prove tough for Germany's newly unshackled match industry.

Peter Roller

(Köln: Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 January 1983)

A Yugoslav shutdown in Bavaria

Crisis in the home electronics industry has spread from Western Europe to Yugoslavia. The shutdown of Korting in Grassau, Bavaria, will not only see that plant's 850 workers jobless.

It will also hit the several thousand workers at the Gorenje plant in Yugoslavia who will ultimately have to bear their company's losses.

The decision by the Gorenje owners of the Grassau plant to liquidate their German facility must have been anything but easy.

The works council of the "socialist multinational corporation" Gorenje did not announce the decision to liquidate the German plant until all rescue efforts had failed.

This means that the only German-based production plant of a Yugoslav company has to go out of business to forestall bankruptcy proceedings.

Even a socialist mammoth like the Gorenje company, the leading Yugoslav maker of household electronics and electrical appliances (with a payroll of 17,000 and annual sales of DM1.8bn), was unable to weather DM147m in losses in only four years.

The costly rescue attempts clearly overtaxed the resources of the Gorenje concern, which bought the prestigious Korting company for DM21.1m in 1978.

In any event, this was the amount set for the guarantee of the competing bidder, the American GTE Corporation that opted out at the last moment.

Gorenje intended Korting to become the key with which to unlock Western markets. The risky deal was financed by

DER TAGES SPIEGEL

Ljubljanska Banka and Beogradska Banka which in their turn were backed by the state government of Slovenia.

Though 1978, when the deal was finalised, was still a boom year, prospects for the home electronics industry had already dimmed under the impact of Japanese competition.

The Yugoslav newspapers, spearheaded by the *Slovensko Delo*, have unearthed these old forecasts in their bid to find a scapegoat for the disaster.

The Gorenje management stresses that by acquiring Korting it imported sophisticated know-how to Yugoslavia and that the production of colour TV sets and other high-grade electronics will continue in Yugoslavia. But this has not silenced those who ask about the cost.

Yugoslav competitors at home are worried that the modern Gorenje products could displace them from the market but they have been told that Gorenje will continue to work predominantly for export and that it has been able to corner the best of markets through Korting.

The more than 100 Yugoslav workers at the Grassau plant have been offered jobs at Gorenje — at Yugoslav rates of pay.

Gustav Chalupa

(Der Tagespiegel, 16 January 1983)

■ PARTNERSHIP

Twentieth anniversary of Franco-German pact

The Franco-German friendship treaty was signed in Paris 20 years ago. Gerhard Schröder, who was Foreign Minister at the time and signed for Bonn, here recalls the situation and reviews the treaty's progress.

The 22 January 1963 treaty between Germany and France was one of the most hotly debated documents in post-war German politics.

None of the many items of legislation passed by the Bundestag in the field of foreign affairs can compare with it in having the following said about it by the Speaker:

"Passed by a very substantial majority against one dissenting vote on the right, several on the left and a number of abstentions."

Let us try and account for this state of affairs.

Since 1945, or certainly 1949, Germany has aimed at European integration and relied for its security on the United States.

It was motivated by the objective of an integrated United Europe envisaged as growing progressively more united.

The European Treaties were initially signed by six countries: France, Germany, Italy and Benelux.

The bid to set up an integrated European Defence Community, one in which Germany invested much hard work and by which it set great store, proved a failure.

It was rejected by the French National Assembly in 1954. We in Bonn, first and foremost Chancellor Adenauer, saw this failure as a most serious setback in the work of building a United Europe.

We, especially Theo Blank and his staff, had worked hard on what was a bold project, feeling that if a defence community was possible it might well be followed by a political union.

Our expectations probably went beyond political views and feelings in Europe at the time, but it was not long before Germany became a member of Nato.

That made it a member of the major pact which has guaranteed its security over all these years and will, I feel, continue to do so.

Twenty years after the signing of the Franco-German treaty people are wondering how important it has been.

Has it furthered the cause of European integration? What did it set out to do? What has it been able to accomplish? What good does it do now? What course will it take in future?

The first point, I feel, must be to recall the men mainly concerned, and on the German side it was Adenauer.

For him the treaty set a seal to his work for Franco-German reconciliation and friendship, especially as he knew he was due to step down as Bonn Chancellor later that year.

He had reluctantly agreed in this, his fourth term as Chancellor, to take his bow in mid-term and hand over to Ludwig Erhard.

The pact with France was for Adenauer the crowning achievement of a lifetime in politics, an achievement he would be able to hand over to his successor.

He doubtless felt he would be able to help ensure it was kept running smoothly.

ly even after he had resigned as Chancellor. He spared no effort to ensure that it was.

It is hardly for me to speculate on the ideas that motivated General de Gaulle. A few months earlier he had made a well-prepared tour of Germany on which he had encountered much sympathy and admiration.

He himself had not been sparing with his compliments to the Germans on a tour marked by successful speeches and visits to Bonn, Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Hamburg and Ludwigsburg.

De Gaulle may be assumed to have been convinced the treaty would both strengthen his position in France and endorse his claim to be viewed internationally as the legitimate leader of Europe.

This will have been all the more important after his failure to set up a Western tripartite of America, Britain and France.

His ambitions went much further than those of his German counterpart. Adenauer was Chancellor of a vanquished country, a country aware of its opportunities and its serious problems alike.

I had the honour of accompanying General de Gaulle to a military parade at Münsingen. As the somewhat antiquated tanks rolled past he said:

"That will be our first task, joining forces to build a new tank."

I could hardly tell him that to the best of my knowledge German experts had said the development of a new German tank had reached such an advanced stage that there could no longer be any question of joining forces.

To this day the relevant section of the treaty reads:

"In the arms sector the two governments will endeavour to organise joint efforts from the stage of drafting suitable armaments projects and preparing financial planning."

There has been no lack of attempts to do so, but 20 years later I am still constantly reminded of the task story.

We naturally do cooperate a great deal, and successfully, in the arms sector, but in exporting the outcome we have restricted ourselves to Nato, whereas France is not encumbered by such restrictions.

The treaty was most controversial both in Germany and abroad, but setting the seal to Franco-German reconciliation and friendship was not at issue; neither was controversial in the least.

The point at issue was, in a nutshell, whether the treaty could be reconciled with other European agreements. Would it be to the advantage or to the detriment of European developments?

In its debate on the treaty the Bundestag, or upper house of the Bonn parliament, decided on a resolution outlining its views on how the treaty was to be read and implemented.

The Bundestag and its committees felt a preamble was better. A preamble could ensure that the previous German policy, that European decisions and that Atlantic policy, which was mainly security policy, did not get out of control.

It is wrong to assume there was any intention of a change of direction in German foreign policy, the preamble listed targets that included the following:

- Implementation of the right of self-determination for the German people and restoration of German unity.

- Joint defence within the framework of the North Atlantic alliance and integration of the armed forces of member-countries.

- European integration along lines laid down by the establishment of the European Communities but including Britain and other would-be new members and with due regard for further consolidation of the communities.

These had been the yardsticks of German foreign policy up till then and they were to remain so.

The insertion of a preamble was evidently in keeping with what Konrad Adenauer had in mind.

He immediately and as a matter of course accepted the Act as prefaced by the preamble going into detail on the government draft.

There was no such move by the French government, and General de Gaulle was most critical of the preamble, although I cannot recall when he first voiced this criticism.

Whenever it was, it did not prevent him from sharing in setting up the institutions provided for in the treaty.

Even so, he saw the preamble as an amendment of the entire meaning of the treaty, depriving it of both spirit and substance.

De Gaulle knew that we in Germany were keenly interested in the establishment of an MLF, or multilateral force, equipped with nuclear weapons of which units of the Bundesmarine were to form a part.

He initially favoured the idea, which Adenauer himself had previously outlined to the Americans, but later changed his mind and rejected it at a 23 July 1964 press conference.

On 19/20 January 1965 he warned



Adenauer and de Gaulle

(Photos: DPA)

Chancellor Erhard against a proposal in Rambouillet.

Richard Nixon notes in his that in all frankness he (de Gaulle) admitted his decision to go ahead with the treaty was a gamble, a bet on the Germans and to counter Adenauer despite the fears about the Germans.

De Gaulle admitted that the had enormous vitality, energy, considerable ability. They even had a bonhomie.

But at the bottom of their he had a motive force and a power that had to be kept under control. If France and other countries were to undergo further bitter experience.

That was why the French were resolved to ensure that the G never gained access to nuclear power of their own.

In retrospect one cannot be struck by the short time that was the men mainly responsible for the Franco-German friendship pact.

Adenauer stepped down in 1963. De Gaulle resigned on 28 April 1969, dying on 9 November 1970. He had died in April 1967.

Twenty years after the signing of the treaty many institutions envisaged in it have been set up. There is the Franco-German youth exchange scheme, and other countries' armed forces have been common.

What shape will the future be? My view the obligation to hold consultations is the cornerstone of the treaty, and it has shown that it is a stay.

Gerhard Schröder

(Die Welt, 20 Jan 1983)

RESEARCH

Antarctic eco-system endangered as scientists move in

from Ushuaia, Argentina, and Punta Arenas, Chile, ships set sail, on 20 January, on a de luxe tourist cruise of the Antarctic.

The two ships were described in the brochures as something special, not to carry as many passengers as a cruise from one port to another but to take a small group of passengers to the holiday dreams of their own come.

The *World Discoverer*, owned by a Hamburg company, de Vries, and the *Explorer*, owned by an American line, are specially equipped for the discovery to previously inaccessible parts of the world.

On board the two floating expedition-cum-hotel ships, about 250 well-heeled holidaymakers, mostly Americans but also Germans, have taken a month's tour of the Antarctic.

They are following in the footsteps of Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, the Germans and to counter Adenauer despite the fears about the Germans.

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Gerhard Schröder

(Die Welt, 20 Jan 1983)

They relay manpower and supplies to Antarctic research stations manned by a variety of countries, including hundreds of scientists in a wide range of disciplines.

Tourists, even though they may be keen nature-lovers, are more of a nuisance because, for instance, even by coming anywhere near a scientific recording device they can produce data that seriously distort the micro-climate, scientists say.

"Despite marked ecological consideration shown by most scientific and tourist expeditions," says Gotthilf Hempel, "this growing activity endangers the Antarctic community."

Professor Hempel is head of the Alfred Wegener Polar Research Institute in Bremerhaven, Federal Republic of Germany.

An introductory brochure for visitors has been published, with a code of behaviour. They are requested not to walk on moss- and lichen-covered banks and slopes of snow.

Footsteps in the Antarctic can leave their mark for up to a decade.

In the few places where at times there is no snow or ice visitors are asked not to take samples of stone, some semiprecious. They are irreplaceable.

Breeding colonies should only be viewed from a distance. Seals at sleep must on no account be disturbed and babies should never be touched. There are already signs of seal cows with puppies being troubled by stress.

Scientists made no exception when it comes to abiding by the Antarctic code of conduct.

It was drawn up not long after International Geophysical Year, when in 1957-58 twelve countries sent expeditions to the South Pole.

Thousands of scientists made their way through the ice on board ships and aircraft and by tracked vehicle. Four dozen research buses were set up.

The countries concerned drew up a kind of constitution for international Antarctic research, the Antarctic Treaty. Its aim is to keep the territory unspoiled.

The exclusive tourists will see for themselves not only impressive pack ice formations and icebergs but also other natural wonders of the world.

There are the Antarctic seals, which yet are serenely unconcerned when approached by humans, sea leopards, elephants and whales.

There are shoals of krill, the tiny Antarctic shrimp that used to be the staple of the whale. They are hundreds of kilometres in extent and stain the sea water.

There are albatrosses and other ocean birds, Adelle and king penguins that slide on their bellies across the ice.

They have yet to learn to be afraid of man and often live in colonies of up to 100,000. "The sight, smell and sound of a colony are unforgettable," a research scientist has written.

Two hundred million years ago this was Gondwanaland, a primeval continent consisting of what are now Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa as well as the Antarctic.

Tourists are not particularly welcome. At the height of summer scientific activity is brisk in the Antarctic, with research vessels and supply ships and all nations breaking their way through the ice.



The first team to men the German Antarctic base: Eckard Müller-Heiden, doctor; Mathias Idl, cook; Friedrich Oehlertner, meteorologist; Jürgen Jennek, mechanic; and Paul-Harbert Hag, radio officer.

facilities have already led to serious local effects on the sparse flora and fauna, says Dr W. N. Bonner of the British Antarctic Survey.

They are a definite threat to nature and to the aesthetic value of the Antarctic environment. Snow that falls in the Antarctic and surrounding oceans already contains slight traces of man-made chemicals that are eventually concentrated in the bodies of marine organisms, such as penguins and seals.

"We all ought to feel we are guests in the Antarctic," says Professor Hempel, "regardless whether we are there for business or for pleasure."

Yet even the most painstaking observation of the Antarctic code cannot entirely rule out disturbance or impairment of antarctic flora and fauna that until a few years ago were largely uninfluenced by mankind.

Many countries are too heavily committed in terms of cash and manpower, and the Antarctic seems sure to be of similar scientific importance to water space.

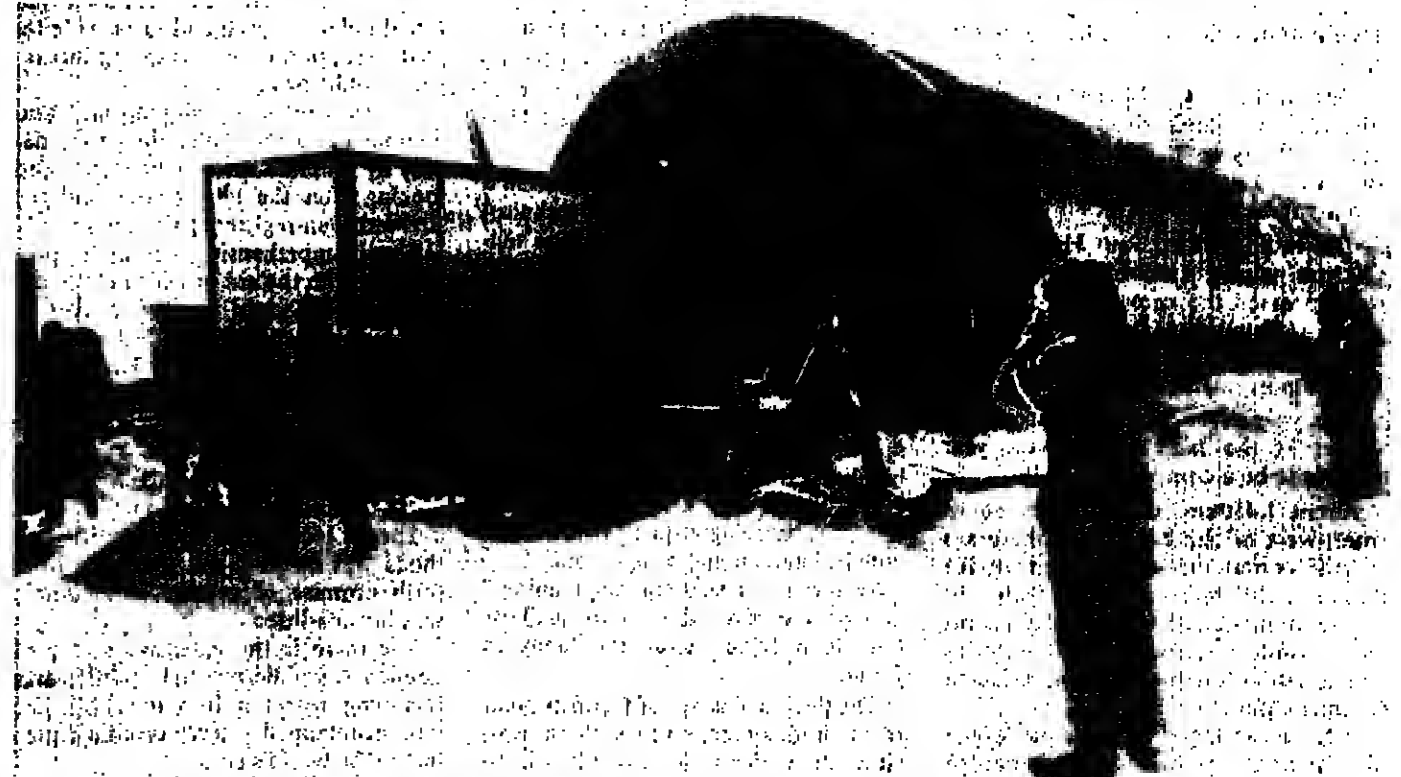
The Federal Republic of Germany, in keeping with Bonn Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber's dictum, is among the planners.

"As a traditional scientific nation," he says, "we are called on to play a part in research into a continent that is still largely unexplored."

German polar research, including the North Pole, is a happy hunting ground for geologists, geophysicists, glaciologists, geographers and specialists in geodesy.

Between now and 1985 they have

Continued on page 10



Home on the ice: insulated living and working containers being moved into one of the two corrugated metal tubes 50 metres long that house the Georg von Neumayer Antarctic base camp.

(Photos: Süddeutscher Verlag)



Signing the treaty at the Elysée Palace in Paris on 22 January 1963. Seated, from the left: Bonn Foreign Minister Gerhard Schröder and Chancellor Adenauer; General de Gaulle; Premier Pompidou and French Foreign Minister Couve de Murville.

■ ENVIRONMENT

Dentists help
to recycle
waste mercuryFrankfurter
Neue Presse

Every dentist in Hesse pours down the drain or into the dustbin an average 2.4kg of amalgam filling waste per year. There are 2,000 dental practices in the state, so the annual total is about 4.8 tonnes.

Roughly half, or about 2.4 tonnes, is mercury that pollutes rivers and streams and helps to ensure that sewage sludge cannot be recycled and has to be specially disposed of.

A two-year pilot project launched by the Hesse Environmental Affairs Ministry in March 1982 is nearing the halfway mark and an interim survey has been published.

It has been drawn up by the firm in Runkel-Dehrn, near Limburg, that was entrusted by the Ministry with installing mercury filtration equipment in 100 dental practices.

The project was backed by the dental profession.

Mercury is contained mainly in amalgam, used in fillings, and the waste is either poured down the drain or, in the case of fillings in teeth extracted, thrown into the dustbin.

But most dentists were reluctant to cooperate. Of 500 in Limburg, Darmstadt, Wiesbaden and Kassel only 29 agreed to take part in the project.

Many of them withdrew from the scheme on learning that the state government was not subsidising it. Equipment rental and maintenance costs DM60 a month, with mercury recovered being offset against the rental.

Mercury has been identified at almost all sewage farms in Hesse, but no-one has yet been able to identify its source. Dentists clearly account for much of it.

Two tonnes a year would not be fed into the sewage system if only Hesse dentists were to collect amalgam waste instead of junking it.

A year ago the Ministry suggested that dentists might be to blame for roughly half the mercury fed to the state's sewage system.

The dental council doubted this was so but said the joint pilot project was all the more important as a means of checking the true level of pollution.

The Limburg company now says interim findings are sufficient to make anyone with a sense of responsibility conclude that the point has been made and that widespread measures are urgently needed.

It refers to a statement by the vice-chairman of the council, Professor Panke of Giessen University, at the outset of the project.

"If the project succeeds in filtering waste amalgam," he said, "we will definitely encourage members of the profession to take part in the campaign on a large scale."

"When something can be done for the health of the general public doctors and dentists must be the forefront."

Dieter Fluck
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 14 January 1983)

Baby seal
fur ban
North Sea
oil tollSTUTTGARTER
NACHRICHTEN

Furriers in the Federal Republic of Germany are no longer to process or sell baby seal fur: neither whitecoats nor bluebacks.

Regulations are to be drawn up to supervise the trade and ensure such protection. It can give to the endangered species culled mainly off the Canadian coast.

The industry is reported by the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry to be planning to call on member-firms no longer to import and process baby seal fur.

By the end of February it will report to the Ministry on ways and means of ensuring voluntary restraint. Societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals are to be consulted.

According to the industry 80,000 and 97,000 baby seal hides were imported in

1980 and 1981, but they were mainly species that are not endangered.

For years the trade has preferred not to process whitecoat and blueback fur. Their hides are said not to be suitable for coats or larger items of clothing in any case.

The industry says only two firms in the Federal Republic still process whitecoat and blueback hides to order for foreign customers.

Both are now reportedly prepared to stop doing so altogether.

dpa
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 15 January 1983)

North Sea
oil toll

Crude oil pollution is an alarming proportion in the North Sea, with thousands of sea-birds being hit by an extensive oil slick in the past few days.

Ornithologists and conservationists have collected truckloads of dead ducks, gulls and other sea-birds from the island of Sylt and Haligoland and the coast of North Frisia and Sauerland.

A rocky area of Heligoland is Germany's only breeding ground for gulls. In an obliging way he was told, he certainly didn't like to have to ask for things.

He once said: "If more were at stake than life itself, I would die for what I mean by democracy."

For his convictions, or maybe in keeping with his sense of justice, he spent time behind bars in the McCarthy era.

There can be no doubt that Hammett, a detective fiction writer, was a character, an American hero who embodied more the uncompromising obscurity of the pioneers.

Hammett is also the title of a film by German director Wim Wenders that did not even deal in depth with his fictional life, which fascinated his contemporaries, friends and the "incomplete" woman who shared his later

Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 18 January 1983

CINEMA

Wenders' Hammett looks
at a legend

One day she escapes from Chinatown, seeks refuge with Hammett, then disappears again.

In the end everyone is on the lookout for Crystal Ling: the police, gangsters, industrialists and Hammett, the private eye reactivated.

Wenders shows us the manhunt with reasonable tension. He is more interested in the opportunity of recreating pictorial tableaux of a lost Los Angeles world in the studio than in telling the tale.

It is a world that never really existed and was always an artefact. *The Big Sleep* was one of the most famous Hollywood films of this kind.

But the eternal nature of celluloid is in contrast with the finite nature of life, and Wenders' film competes with the myth of a genre that was never exposed to oblivion.

In a way, *Hammett* is the reconstruction of a historical model, a tribute to the tradition portrayed by Elisha Cook, who in John Huston's *Maltese Falcon* plays the hysterical weekling and born loser of a gunman.

Cook recurs in Hammett as a living quotation, so to speak. There can be no ignoring reminders of characters, episodes, pictures and a certain weakness for quotations.

Yet the film is more than a remake: it is the production of a dream, of Wim Wenders' visionary view of classic Hollywood cinema.

He originally intended to shoot the film in black and white, but Francis Ford Coppola, the producer, ruled out this idea for commercial reasons, and wisely so.

The specially devised colour patterns give the film a note that is very much its own and distinguishes today's pictures from those taken 30 years ago.

Wim Wenders proves his mastery of colour, of the studio atmosphere and of the camera, but at times we feel he is not engaged in the search for Crystal Ling but in a quest for exquisite pictures.

He prefers to point the camera at his characters from below, which tends to give them a demon-like look.

There is a wealth of decorative shadow, of unusual camera angles that at times verge on mannerism. The library



Frederic Forrest as Dashiell Hammett in Wenders' film

(Photo: Neue Constantia Film)

has a glass roof. Houae have staircases that are all angles.

Many features of the film are typical of the present age. There can be no mistaking the predilection for quotations, the overwhelming presence of cinematic thought and doubtless the aestheticism.

The political aspect, the social criticism that makes up much of the myth of this genre of Hollywood films, remains no more than a mere claim or assertion.

Politics, it is said at one point, is teased out; it is the millionaire who runs things.

But this comment sounds as much of an illiberal as the inevitable conclusion that crime doesn't pay which film censors insisted on in the 1940s, merely fuelling the fire of gangster legends.

Viewed in this light *Hammett* is the expression of an age that is sold on the pleasing, on outward aspects.

"It is not because I despise women that all my heroes are men," Wenders once said. "I would sooner see this as a kind of respect for women. I can't tell their tales."

The dramatic climax of the film, the moment at which evil rears its ugly head and the seeming innocence of woman is unmasked as frighteningly calculated, is directed in anything but virtuoso fashion.

"He needed one hand for the money and another for the gun," we are told about the dead private eye Ryan at the end, "and he couldn't cope with either."

It's a fine ending as they go but Lydia Lal is not a Mary Astor or a Lauren Bacall, and Wim Wenders is no John Huston. The scene remains flat and lacking in tension. Wenders falls in his bid to portray a woman monster on the screen.

He spent four years in America working on *Hammett*. Screenplays were written and written off. Actors were hired and fired. The cameraman was swapped.

At times work was in mothballs, then it was all hectic action. Given this chaos the film is surprisingly uniform in style. It is a film about the birth of the private eye Sam Spade.

Michael Schwarze
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 January 1983)

Berlin film
festival

Sydney Pollack's *Tootsie*, starring Dustin Hoffman, will open the 33rd Berlin Film Festival on 18 February. It is an actors' comedy hailed by US film critics as Film of the Year rather than *E.T.*

The German entry will be *Heller Wahn* (German title: Sheer Madness), directed by Margarete von Trotta and starring Hanna Schygulla and Angela Winkler.

A second German entry will be *Utopia*, directed by Sohrab Shadi Saleh, a Persian who lives in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The second US entry will be *Sophie's Choice*, directed by Alan Pakula and starring Meryl Streep and Germany's Katharina Thalbach.

Other entries will include Alain Tanner's *Dans la ville blanche*, from Switzerland, starring Bruno Ganz, *La Colonne* by Mario Camus of Spain, *Ascendancy* by Britain's Edward Bennett, *Himalaya* by Ishmael Benoit of the Philippines and *Kharif* by Mrinal Sen of India.

There will also be a Chinese entry at Berlin again. The jury will be chaired by French actress and director Jeanne Moreau.

This year's retrospective will be entitled *Exile: Six Actors from Germany*, and deal with Elisabeth Bergner, Curt Bois, Dolly Haas, Franz (Francis) Lederer, Hertha Thiele and Wolfgang Zilzer (Paul Andor).

The International Young Film Forum is to present, on the 50th anniversary of Hitler's power take-over on 30 January, several still unknown films made by German emigrants.

dpa
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 January 1983)

Antarctic
eco-system

Continued from page 9

to 40 scientists in summer and up to 10 in the Antarctic winter.

Specialists say the tubes can withstand high wind pressure and up to seven metres of snow. But due to their heat and the pressure of snow bearing down on them sink about 70cm deeper every year.

In the event of an emergency there is a survival raft to one side of the base. But there hasn't been one yet, and five men manned the base in its first winter in use.

One of the five, a 28-year-old mechanic, Jürgen Jannek, signed on for a second 300-day term. The other four said they would not voluntarily stay for another winter.

The radio officer, Paul Herbert Hagel, felt you never got out of the place. The wind pressed the snow as hard as concrete. It found its way through every nook and cranny, and the weather was, for the most part, bad.

This year seven men are to spend the winter at the base camp. Next year there is to be a complement of 10.

About 1,450km, or 900 miles, south-west of the base camp there are several containers on sleds on an ice flow in the Filchner-Ronne ice shelf.

The containers, including day rooms and dormitories, a kitchen, laboratories and a sanitation unit, are the German summer camp.

From these logistical bases, to which the *Polarstern* is bound on its maiden voyage, Antarctic research is carried out.

German polar research, Professor

Hempel says, has extended over the past century. Between 1901 and 1903 Erich von Drygalski headed a major Antarctic expedition on board the three-masted schooner *Gauss*. Between 1911 and 1913 Wilhelm Filchner sailed into the Weddell Sea on board the *Deutschland*. He and his crew were holed up in the ice for eight months.

In 1938-39 Captain Alfred Ritscher on board the *Schwabenland* discovered a mountainous terrain he named New Swabia.

But German research suffered from a lack of continuity in scientific, technical and financial support. There was neither a central polar research institute nor a permanent German research base.

German scientists concentrated more on shipboard expeditions than on land-based expeditions to the Antarctic.

Independent German Antarctic research was resumed in 1975 after a break of more than 30 years. Professor Hempel can now proudly claim that it has been amazingly quick to catch up with its international competitors.

"We now have a share in the planning," he says. Progress is due, to no small extent, to a smoothly-running lobby in Bonn.

The three mainstays of German polar research today are, he says, the universities, the major Federal research institutes and the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven.

University work is backed by a Scientific Research Association programme worth about DM3m a year.

The Bremerhaven Institute is funded by Bonn and Bremen, with 90 per cent coming from the Federal government. It has a staff of 60 and is temporarily housed in a shopping centre.

Its main role will be to coordinate national polar research and to provide logistical support as well as to conduct research of its own.

Logistics includes shipping men and equipment to the Antarctic bases, deploying aircraft and helicopters and looking after the base camps and the Bremerhaven-registered *Polarstern*.

The comprehensive research programme with the aid of which the Federal Republic hopes to play its part in shaping the future of the last undeveloped territory in the world has a wide-ranging brief.

It includes charting the sea-bed in the pack ice areas. Scientists know less about the sea-bed in this area than about the surface of the Moon.

Special techniques and scientific methods will be tried out that only hold forth promise of success in Antarctic weather conditions.

There is the extensive sector of applied Antarctic research; particularly including research into the krill, the largest untapped reserve of edible protein in the world's seas.

Information is also being gathered on other living resources, such as whales, penguins and seals, in an eco-system

that has been stable for more than a million years.

The Antarctic is up for exploration as a museum of trace elements, minerals and as a mechanism of the earth's climate.

There can no longer be the old doubt that Antarctic ice strongly influences the earth's climate.

The quest for oil, gas, uranium ore and other mineral resources is a wise part of the programme, though exploiting them in this ice-covered and remote terrain is difficult, says out of the question for the being.

"Drilling through a layer of ice to 3,000 metres thick is a much more difficult task than sinking a shaft on dry land," says Professor Hempel.

"The ice is in a continual state of change and you cannot sink a straight shaft as you drill it."

Yet scientists spare no efforts to undertake basic research on a large scale. Professor Hempel, 53, a marine biologist and krill research specialist, left Cape Town on 18 January.

There he joined the *Polarstern* on its journey to the Antarctic.

He admits that human and scientific curiosity play a part but will hear of it all being Ivory Tower games.

Criticism of this kind, he says, has been levelled since the Ancient World. Science has had to learn how to deal with it.

"Unless we know all about the world we can do nothing with it, either for good or bad."

Gert Kleinmichel
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 January 1983)

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TELEVISION

Sesame Street, now 10, has gone German



Pre-school TV all began in America, and the idea was fascinatingly simple. Educationalists noticed that children who spent a lot of time watching television stored and retained TV slogans in their minds.

So they wondered: "Why not put this facility to a good use? Why not sell pre-school children figures and the letters of the alphabet instead of cornflakes?"

The idea was picked up and realised in 1969 in the form of the Sesame Street TV programme for children, produced by the Children's Television Workshop.

The aim of Sesame Street was to improve the educational prospects of underprivileged and neglected children, and initial successes seemed to prove the concept right.

Surveys made in 1971 showed that a regular dose of Sesame Street promoted the children's receptiveness and that it indeed taught them something.

But this positive view did not stand up to a subsequent review of the initial findings.

A Russell Sage Foundation study entitled Sesame Street Revisited showed that the learning progress made by the

test group was not due to the programme but to intensive personal attention.

It turned out that it was not Sesame Street that promoted the children's learning but the in-depth chats they had with the field workers making the survey.

Underprivileged children who were not included in the project showed no sustained learning successes.

As one expert put it: "Even the Sesame Street generation of children had to start from scratch once they began their schooling."

Initial successes in America spread to the Federal Republic of Germany, where educationalists were fascinated by the idea of taking education to the remotest corner of the country via the TV screen.

The American idea was adopted for Norddeutscher Rundfunk, one of the major national broadcasting systems, by its Sesamstrasse project group in 1973.

The project group took over the American combination of Muppet-like creatures and everyday situations combined with a bit of show and information.

The aim was ambitious. The programme was supposed to have helped raise the independent and responsible dream child of educational planners.

So much for the aim. But there was a considerable controversy over how to achieve it, a controversy that has left its



Tiffy, Sameon and Harr von Bödefeld from the German cast of Sesame Street.

mark on the various development phases of the German version of Sesame Street.

The original American street scene, complete with the people who populated it, was dropped in the early stages because it was considered too exotic.

The little viewers were given an idea of their environment by a blend of animated cartoons and shots of real German street scenes, some borrowed from another, German children's programme.

The German producers contributed about 30 per cent of the programme, the rest being taken over from the American version.

Despite many changes, the original aim of providing information on many situations a child is likely to encounter as possible along with a bit of simple instruction in the three Rs has remained to this day.

But the programme also reflects the changes in educational finds that have occurred during the ten years in existence here in Germany.

Starting from the mid-1970s, more emphasis was put on re-enacting possible social conflicts in a bid to teach children how to cope with them and on removing the stereotype understanding of the specific roles of the sexes, thus imparting emancipatory impulses.

Basic patterns of the series have remained, notwithstanding changes of emphasis. The sketches with Ernie and Bert, the games with figures and letters and the frequently hectic rhythm of the show with its minimum of eight separate sections in half an hour remain.

With its rapid sequence of scenes, gags and slogans, the programme's origins in advertising are clearly in evidence.

The theme song *Wer, wie, was, wieso, weshalb, warum; wer nicht fragt, bleibt dumm*, ("Who, how, what, why... if you don't ask you'll stay stupid") is catchy, but performs no miracle.

One of the main conclusions arrived at by an extensive review made by the Hans Bredow Institute in 1975 was that the series barely improved the children's social attitudes though some children were made to perform better intellectually.

Children with fairly tolerant, loving mothers who talked a lot with them topped the performance score. But children growing up under such favourable conditions hardly need a TV programme that its makers regard as an opportunity to achieve equal opportunity.

What accounts for these relatively poor results, considering the time and

money that goes into Sesame Street? Perhaps the best explanation is that children can learn at play while glued to the television.

Foreigners with children have heard time and again in interviews that their children learned German playing with other children through Sesamstrasse.

The same applies to learning to read. Though children might grasp other letters they see on the screen, means little because it is too far from reality.

For one thing, reading should be taught too early anyway and, other, a child must come to understand in other areas of life that curiosity drive to discover something new.

And this can only be experienced by those who are not shielded from the real world by a TV screen.

The typical Sesame Street viewer, weaned from the necessity to tolerate for any length of time.

Sesamstrasse has gradually shifted emphasis from teaching to entertaining as evidenced by the programme's 10th anniversary funny scenes predominated.

The sentimental item with the *Wenn es regnet und du bist allein* (When it rains and you're alone) which was more suited to television than to toys, was contrasted by a rather clever and funny information rain.

This was augmented by pictorial series, a report on carrier pigeons and game with Samson the Bear, a permanent member of the cast.

The unsystematic blend of wide-ranging items. In this anniversary was symptomatic for the series as a whole.

Other pre-school TV programmes have found a better approach and content themselves with providing children with fleeting sensations.

Die Sendung mit der Maus, a man children's TV series, is excellent for this genre, especially because it makes a point of taking children's listeners into account by giving introduction in a number of foreign languages.

Moreover, these programmes present chains of causality in an understandable fashion, coupled with clear pictures. This promotes the desire to play and discover.

It would be nice if Sesame Street adopted the same format in the future.

Eva-Maria L. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 January 1983)

MEDICINE

Heidelberg neurologist probes neuropeptides

The discovery of neuropeptides a few years ago is beginning to change concept of the autonomic nervous system that controls intestinal functions, those of the skin, blood vessels and heart.

opposed to the voluntary nervous system that controls the movement of, among other things, the autonomic system is not subject to man's will.

The prevailing view until recently that the functions of our internal organs were controlled by stimulating retarding impulses of the opposing

parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous systems.

Research into neuropeptides, a chain of protein molecules, suggests that the control of internal organs is much more complicated than has hitherto been assumed.

Thus such organs as the heart, the liver and the kidneys are criss-crossed by much finer networks of nerve fibres than has been thought up to now.

Some areas of the heart consist of up to 50 per cent of nerve rather than muscle fibres.

Most are a blend of neurons that respond not only to transmitters but additionally also to a variety of neuropeptides.

In the case of adrenergic nerves, part of the sympathetic system, it is adrenaline that acts as a transmitter substance.

The parasympathetic system includes cholinergic nerves that use the vagus substance acetylcholine as a transmitter.

The presence of several transmitters in a single nerve cell disproves a 50-year-old neurological theory, the Dale Principle that a single nerve cell uses only one neurotransmitter.

Contrary to this obsolete view, nerve impulses in the autonomic nervous system are transmitted both adrenergically and cholinergically plus peptidergically, as has now been established.

The various neuropeptides such as angiotensin, enkephaline, glucagon, neuropeptide Y, somatostatin and the vasoactive intestinal polypeptide (VIP) act simultaneously with the neurotransmitter acetylcholine or adrenaline, thus modulating the sympathetic or parasympathetic transmission of impulses.

Moreover, the two nervous systems are linked through a brain circuit that combines the central and the autonomic nervous systems.

Even so, he suggested that these complex side-effects should not necessarily preclude the use of such therapy, provided a risk analysis clearly shows that the medication could save or prolong life.

He said that the International Cancer Research Agency (IARC) in Lyon, France, has classified 13 pharmacological substances as carcinogenic, seven of them commonly used in chemotherapy for cancer.

The therapeutic use of arsenic (and compounds containing it), which is also the IARC list, was discontinued some time ago, Professor Preussmann said at the congress.

There is no conclusive epidemiological information available for 18 other cancer drugs, though animal experiments suggest that they could be harmful.

In its closing session, the congress dealt with chemotherapy, the diagnosis of palpating and therapy by manipulation of joints and spinal disorders.

The science magazine *raum & zeit* has now presented a synopsis of the most important research results in this field.

Most biophotons are ultraviolet and have about the same frequency as the sunrays that cause tanning in humans.

The light emitted by living cells is altered by chemicals. Dying and rapidly growing cells emit more biophotons than their run-of-the-mill counterparts.

The biophotons are stored in DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) along with genetic information.

Many patients have been cured of joint afflictions by this type of medication.

Harald Biskup (Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 January 1983)

One cancer case in 100 due to medicine

One cancer case in 100 is the result of taking medicine, Professor Rüdiger Preussmann of the Heidelberg Cancer Research Centre department of oncology and chemotherapy has told a medical congress in Cologne.

Applied to the Federal Republic of Germany, this means that about 1,500 people a year come down with cancer as a result of having taken antineoplastic drugs.

To half of these cases the cancer is said to be metastatic, either distant or therapeutic.

Professor Preussmann bases his conclusion on findings at his own department and international research results, somewhat offhandedly termed cancer as a result of medication "an undesirable side-effect."

Even so, he suggested that these complex side-effects should not necessarily preclude the use of such therapy, provided a risk analysis clearly shows that the medication could save or prolong life.

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Harald Biskup (Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 January 1983)

Brain signals thus make it possible to increase or decrease hormone secretions, as in the case of insulin in the pancreas.

But not all regions of the pancreas and other organs have a uniform network of nerves.

Every sector of an organ has its own characteristic nerve network, as explained by neurologist W. G. Forsmann, of Heidelberg University, in a paper delivered at the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry.

Forsmann has established that adrenergic and cholinergic nerve fibres in the various sections of an organ use widely differing neuropeptides as modulators.

Neuropeptides (releasing or inhibiting factors in the brain) thus not only serve the central nervous system as regulators but also the autonomic nervous system.

Notwithstanding these new insights into the autonomic nervous system, medicine is still far removed from a full understanding of the regulating system for the functioning of organs.

It will be up to further research to clarify whether the vagus nerve, the main nerve of the parasympathetic system, controls the heart chambers directly or whether the heart's own nerve cells have a hand in this.

In any event, immunological tests have now provided answers to some of the questions.

Thus, for instance, bronchial spasms or coronary infarctions that are triggered neither by adrenergic nor by cholinergic impulses can now be explained.

The spasm are due to the interplay between the neuropeptide VIP and neuropeptide Y. While the VIP dilates bronchial and coronary vessels, neuropeptide Y contracts them.

These two substances could therefore be of major therapeutic importance if researchers succeeded in reproducing them.

With a VIP preparation in his pocket, an asthma sufferer or a person threatened by a heart attack could avert disaster by taking the preparation in good time.

Tom Both

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 January 1983)

Remote control capsule fires drugs in body

DER TAGES SPIEGEL

A remote-controlled capsule, made of plastic and about the size of a plumstone, transports medication through the intestines, releasing it by remote control where it will do the most good.

Research leading to the development of the capsule began six years ago at the Thomae pharmaceutical company in Biberach.

The researchers wanted to establish what part of the human intestines is most efficient in absorbing a particular type of medication.

To do this, they needed an instrument that would enable them to pinpoint the place in the intestines where the medication enters the bloodstream.

The solution to the problem was a capsule that would travel through the intestines while being monitored on an X-ray screen and would release its therapeutic substance by remote control.

It took three years and DM 150,000 to design the world's first intestinal "satellite." The capsule is 24 mm long, has a diameter of 12 mm and weighs two grams.

The intestinal satellite has two chambers, one of them containing up to 1 ml of medication while the second one houses the triggering mechanism.

The mechanism was developed by an electronics engineer at the Battelle Institute in Frankfurt who miniaturised to the point where it would fit into the tiny chamber.

The basic components of the device are a radio receiver, a heating element, a spring, a steel needle and a nylon fibre.

On receiving the signal from the transmitter, the heating element is activated and melts the nylon fibre which in turn releases the spring that drives the steel needle into the chamber containing the medication, thus releasing it.

Blood samples taken from the patient provide a clear indication as to whether the medication was absorbed at exactly the spot where the capsule was fired.

Indigestible

Remote-controlled firing of several capsules can help establish the extent to which specific areas of the intestines can absorb a particular type of medication.

The satellite itself is indigestible and is eliminated with the excreta.

The remote-controlled capsule has many potential applications. Since it can be easily swallowed, it can be used for diagnostic purposes, as in establishing acidity. But it can also be used to activate enzymes.

Therapeutically, it can be used to transport medication to, say, an ulcer and release it where it is needed.

Gottlieb Ochsle

(Der Tagespiegel, 8 January 1983)

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■ THE PAST

Family patterns in mediaeval Europe examined in Volkswagen survey



Communal living with several families forming one household is as little a feature peculiar to our day and age as large families comprising several generations were peculiar to the pre-industrial age.

Like today, earlier eras had both small families and large households that included not only the family nucleus but also paid hands, maids, cooks, coachmen and other non-family members.

This is the conclusion arrived at by a team of Vienna University historians and sociologists in a research project financed by the Volkswagen Foundation.

The team, headed by Professor Michael Mitterauer, pieced civil and church registers and census reports throughout Europe, involving a total of some 260,000 persons.

Their study comprised the period from the late Middle Ages to the present.

The information, including such individual data as age, sex, marital status and position in the family (head of household, housewife, son, daughter, farmhand, maid, paying guest and apprentice), was fed into a computer and evaluated.

It turned out that family and age structures varied widely in previous eras. Women were frequently many decades older than their husbands, stepmothers were younger than their stepchildren and siblings were often decades apart.

There were two basic types of family in Europe, Professor Mitterauer explains in his project report which has been supplemented by a book he co-authored with Dr Reinhard Sieder. The book, entitled *Historische Familienforschung* (Historical Genealogy), was published by Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt.

As to the two types of family, families in the rural areas of Eastern and Southern Europe and in parts of the Mediterranean used entirely their own kin for their labour needs while those in Western, Central and Northern Europe used non-related help as well.

Marriage attitudes in the two areas were also different.

East of a line roughly drawn between Leningrad and Trieste people used to marry rather early in the old days, with most girls getting married soon after puberty.

West of that line, women married between the ages of 23 and 25 on average while men were considerably older than that.

The reasons for these late marriages (compared with the East of Europe and non-European societies) can be traced back to the Middle Ages.

They have to do with a family structure dating very far back and marked by the family nucleus, paid hands and other non-family members living in the same household.

In the case of three-generation families, the person in authority was not the

farmer who had turned the farm over to his son but the son himself.

Second marriages were common and this included widows. On remarrying, the widow's second husband frequently assumed the position of authority.

As opposed to Eastern and Southern Europe, where property could only be passed on from one male to another, women in the West had relatively early been granted the right to own property.

They had generally more rights in large patriarchal families where marriage did not make the woman a housewife in her own right but kept her under the mother-in-law's tutelage.

But relatives and other household members had little say.

Things were different in Eastern and Southern Europe. Here, households usually consisted of several couples, many of them related (though only on the man's side), frequently spanning up to four generations.

The head of the household was the oldest member of the family, mostly the oldest man.

This position of authority could not be passed on to the second husband of a widowed woman and remarriage by women was extremely rare anyway.

People, especially young people, in Central, Western and Northern Europe were usually better off. Due to getting married rather late, they had a long phase of freedom and were fairly adventurous.

They took jobs as farmhands, maids, journeymen, etc., living with other families and seeing quite a bit of the world.

This long period between puberty and marriage also led to problems resulting from sharing a household with non-related people.

This also to some extent explains the strictness of behavioural standards regarding sex in these parts of Europe.

Family structures that had prevailed for centuries were watered down with the dawn of the Industrial Revolution and a great many problems arose, especially in the transition phase, when neither the family nor work for pay provided the necessary security to found and feed a family.

Many people lived without a home of their own as sub-tenants or boarders.

There were also many communal households of non-related persons, common law marriages and a larger number of illegitimate children.

It would be wrong, Professor Mitterauer stresses, to interpret all this as a loosening of moral standards or a sexual revolution, as has been done by many historians.

Five-generation families are coming

Germans in the Middle Ages had bad bones and teeth

Giving birth and getting born was a risky business in the Middle Ages, when lack of hygiene and resulting infections led to the death at birth of one-quarter of babies, the second quarter dying in infancy.

The average life expectancy of a newborn baby was therefore only 30 years, 40 years less than in today's industrial nations.

This is the gist of the conclusions arrived at by Mainz anthropologist Dr Winfried Henke and Göttingen medical doctor and anthropologist Michael Schultz after examining 12th to 16th century skeletons taken from the village cemetery of Rodan in Westphalia.

The skeletons also yielded much information on diseases and living conditions during that era.

Roden people apparently thought little of dental hygiene, as evidenced by the fact that none of the 30 adult skeletons examined had healthy teeth.

Frequently a set of teeth was marked by caries, tooth loss for one reason or another and abscesses due to causes other than caries. The general state of teeth was abominable and huge tartar deposits were no rarity.

A thorough examination of 28 skulls, or their fragments, with well-preserved jawbones showed that one-fifth of the adult population suffered from chronic jaw diseases that left their traces in the bones in the form of netlike deposits.

Even the skeleton of a 7- to 9-year-old child showed these pathological symptoms.

up now. Having started in the 19th century, they are beginning to spread in the 20th, says gerontologist Professor Lehr of Bonn University's Psychology Department.

She suggests that Germany has a considerable number of families of five generations although the members frequently live rather far apart from each other.

This is due to the longevity and age, with 80- or 90-year-old great-grandchildren.

A preliminary and very incomplete survey has so far come up with the families. Professor Lehr and his team are now trying to track down more generation families.

Renate I. Mitterauer
(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 15 Jan.)

VARIETY

Making wireless contact with the other world



People have always wondered whether there was such a thing as life after death. Did death mark the end, or the beginning of some other form of existence?

Modern man can prolong life as we know it. He can fly to the Moon and go back sooner or later be able to visit more distant planets.

He can create artificial life and to a certain extent transform nature, usually to his own advantage, but establishing contact with the other world seems likely to remain a wishful thinking.

What would stop people from trying, even though unidentified flying objects almost invariably turn out to be extra-terrestrial visitors?

They are usually natural light reflections, always assuming they are not figments of someone's imagination. Yet it is more than likely that intelligent beings do exist somewhere else in the vast universe.

Some researchers dispense with direct communication in their quest for voices from the great beyond.

They are the latter-day equivalent of clairvoyant seances of bygone days

at which mysterious knocks sounded on tables and boards to signify "yes" and "no" in answer to the medium's queries.

In the Federal Republic of Germany thousands of people are into this latest technological innovation in their bid to record the voices of the dear departed.

Düsseldorf has for some years boasted a Tapa Research Association whose members investigate paranormal tape-recorded voices.

Their aim, the association's statutes state, is to open up fresh perspectives to science by proving the survival of the individual beyond death and thereby to serve the general public.

Wireless contact with the dead can be made in many ways, they claim. Members have a number of hints on how to get voices out of the ether and on to tape.

Switch your recorder on to record and plug in the microphone, then start your side of the conversation.

You may also like to use pre-amplifiers, additional diode circuits and universal wavelength receivers without selective tuning.

Or maybe you would prefer an ordinary radio set tuned to interference and atmospheric frequencies between two stations.

Short-wave programmes in the 31-metre band at between 9.8 and 9.9 megahertz are strongly recommended, as



Düsseldorf psychologist Fidelio Köberle in conversation with the world beyond (Photo: dpa)

are all foreign-language broadcasts for ghost voices speaking German.

TV programmes, both speech and music, likewise reportedly come up at regular intervals with voices of the dead. They can be heard, and taped, just about anywhere, so club members say.

The association is run by Fidelio Köberle, a trained psychologist, who says it was slow going at first.

He started his tape recording experiments in 1969, tuning in for about an hour a day. But he heard nothing for the first six months or so.

"Only then did I hear something that sounded like: 'Can you hear that?'" It encouraged me and I decided to buy a tape recorder of my own.

"I asked my conversationists in the other world what make of recorder to buy. The answer came through loud and clear: 'Buy an Uher!' So there is obviously advertising in the world beyond."

Friedrich Jürgenson, a Swede, pioneered tape recorder research in 1959 when he discovered he had recorded not only birdsong but also a paranormal voice.

Books have since been published and gramophone records pressed recording

Usually a whisper

what are claimed to be voices of the dead.

But Jürgenson is only able to report them because of the assistance provided by his studio assistant in the world after death, Lena, who always tells him, usually in a whisper, when to tune in.

People in the other world are not always available for conversation, it seems. Asked whether he has ever conversed with dead relatives, Köberle says he has.

But once the conversation failed to come about and another voice explained: "She is lying down and can't speak."

The Düsseldorf association is a keen collector of recorded voices and will send anyone interested recorded cassettes at cost price.

The voices heard are very often spoken briskly and hurriedly, so much so that life in the hereafter doesn't seem much fun.

Proper conversations never occur. Maybe the attitude adopted by the in-

terrogator is wrong. Some prefer to tune in in candlelight; others prefer greenish light or joss sticks.

Experienced tape recorder voice researchers advise good manners, friendly greetings and the like: "It pays to be courteous; they appreciate it."

Where do the voices come from? Professor Hans Bander of Freiburg, a specialist in paranormal phenomena, believes the experimenter's unconscious mind puts the voices on tape.

The soul, he says, has this special ability. Herr Köberle on the other hand wishes scientists would believe him at last when he says there are non-corporeal intelligences that can get in touch with us when we call them.

Manufacturers of tape recorders could make a mint of money, and jobs would be saved by the thousand, if we could all listen to our dear departed on tape rather than just use the telephone in the normal way.

At the monitoring service run by Deutsche Welle in Cologne to keep track of round-the-clock transmissions all over the world one frequency is constantly kept open for extra-terrestrial intelligences.

Staff at the monitoring service have tuned in day and night without making speech contact with the dead.

Wilhelm Quenzer, who works for a Protestant Church research unit, has looked into the phenomenon for some time but doesn't believe in it.

Bernd Marx of the secretariat of the German Episcopal Conference, a Roman Catholic body, is likewise an unbeliever.

He refutes the claim, made recently by a major European broadcasting corporation, that the Pope is interested in tape recorder "voice" research.

The spoken word travels at a specific speed along sound waves. It is about 300,000 km a second, which means that it takes a voice several minutes to get from here to the Sun.

It would take billions of years for a voice to travel from one end of the universe to another. So just where is the hereafter?

Asked how long he has to wait before hearing a dead person's answers to his questions, Fidelio Köberle answers promptly.

"Sometimes," he says, "before I even start."

Hans Joachim Holtz
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 January 1983)

Meteorological stations all over the world



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